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'Pride at the Park' caps Pride Month festivities. **PAGE 2**
Liberation Day festivities kicks off with 60-plus booths. **PAGE 3**

NEW SPED BUSES
Four new mini-buses were turned over yesterday to the Public School System's Special Education Program to add to its fleet for transporting students with disabilities to and from various public schools in the CNMI.

Story on Page 6

CHCC REPORTS 35TH COVID-19-RELATED DEATH

CNMI at 'Level Medium'

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. reported late Tuesday the CNMI's 35th COVID-19-related death. Also, the CNMI has moved into COVID-19 Community Level Medium due to an increase in the number of community cases.

Aside from the CHCC news release announcing zero COVID-19 hospitalizations as of June 28, 2022, the report did not provide additional details about the new fatality from COVID-19, as per its standard procedure.

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC also reported that, from June 20 to June 26, there were two COVID-19 hospitalizations. Since the news release states that there are now no hospitalized individuals as a result of COVID-19, it is presumed

See CNMI on Page 4

Bid to charge Camacho with aggravated assault denied

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has denied the prosecution's proposed amended information in the case of Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan), but instead encouraged the prosecution to file new information against the CNMI representative to charge him with a felony instead of a misdemeanor.

Camacho

See BID on Page 4

Oversight hearing sought on soaring utility bills

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) strongly appealed Tuesday for the Senate and House of Representatives to immediately conduct an oversight hearing on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. over the continued increase in utility costs.

As this developed, Rep. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) disclosed Tuesday that she is working on something right now to implement an emergency/temporary deferment of the CUC Fuel Adjustment Charge.

Santos

Magofna

Santos told *Saipan Tribune* that an oversight hearing by the Senate and House committees on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications is called for so that taxpayers are fully aware as to why power charges continue to go up.

"This is an injustice and unacceptable to our ratepayers," the senator said.

Earlier, Santos called for the CNMI Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse to look for

See HEARING on Page 4

Unexploded ordnance recovered on Tinian

Sailors from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 Detachment Marianas safely recovered a single Navy illumination round found at a Seabee construction site on Tinian last June 21.

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Marianas, notified the Joint Region Marianas region operations center of a possible unexploded ordnance and requested EODMU-5 Det.

See ORDNANCE on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

LOCAL
The Tinian Pride Heart Monument at the Tinian Natibu Park just got more accommodating.

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NATION
The illegal nature of the migrants' deaths in San Antonio is slowing down efforts to identify them.

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ASIA
Drug killings leave agony and a savage facet to President Rodrigo Duterte's legacy.

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Local

The M2 Fitness group was seen performing during the Pride at the Park last Tuesday night at the NMI Museum grounds.

LEIGH GASES

The PSS Mental Health outreach booth and its members pose for a photo during the Pride at the Park event in the NMI Museum grounds last Tuesday night.

LEIGH GASES

'Pride at the Park' caps Pride Month festivities

The CHCC outreach booth at the Pride at the Park event last Tuesday night in the NMI Museum grounds gave free health screenings to event-goers such as blood glucose checks and blood pressure checks.

LEIGH GASES

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The "Pride at the Park" event that capped the monthlong celebration of Pride Month at the colorfully decorated NMI Museum across the Sugar King Park in Garapan drew hundreds from different walks of life last Tuesday night despite the late afternoon and early evening downpour.

Event-goers, from toddlers with their parents to older couples, young adults, children, and adults of all age ranges and sexualities came out in support of the last event celebrating the month of June as Pride Month in the CNMI, and were treated to performances, raffles and giveaways, art exhibits, and educational resources.

Walter Mendez, who works for the Public School System's Office of Student Support Services with the Mental Health Team under Project Haligi Aware, said the event was a collaboration among them and the Pride Marianas Youth organization, T-Project, and Pride Marianas.

"We're just trying to share and spread awareness of LGBTQ love and respect and equity and try to spread that message of respect for all diversities, sexual orientations, and genders, and identities," he said.

He acknowledged that there are so many youth who are still questioning or seeking to identify themselves "and we want them to know that they are loved, and they have a community that accepts who they are, despite any of the differences that we might be seeing within ourselves."

Pride Marianas chair Roberto Santos said the turnout was good despite the rain and that a lot of people had already been at the event since 5:30pm.

Zenn Ichiro Tomokane, an intern for the summer program at PSS Mental Health and a student at Marianas High School, said that a lot of what LGBTQ+ youth go through deals with mental health and

See PRIDE on Page 4

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Liberation Day festivities kick off with 60-plus booths

Over 60 booths will be open to provide food, drinks, arts and crafts, games, and more at this year's Liberation Day festivities on Saipan from June 30 to July 4, 2022.

Festivities will kick off with an opening ceremony at Garapan Fishing Base today, June 30, at 6:30pm at the festival grounds. Festivities will include live entertainment nightly from 6:30 to 10pm

"Our theme this year is 'Honoring our Legacy as We Ride the Waves of Change.' We never forget the past, especially what happened during World War II and in the civilian camps," said Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang. "We have been through a lot as a community, including recent typhoons and the epidemic. We've ridden the waves of all that, and today we are getting back to normal and moving forward. This year I'm so happy that we are bringing back the celebration. I think our people are excited, and I would love to see the community come out and enjoy our Liberation Day festivities, including 30 minutes of fireworks on July 4."

Vendors will include 3'S Maria Kitchen, A&E Ice Cream Rolls, Ana M. Tudela, Aofia Tuiolosega, Apu Restaurant and Catering, Beans & Bags/Coffee & Tea, CNMI COVID-19 Task Force, Chagi Norf, Chelu Retail Accessories, Chamorro Island Food Products, Chelu Shave Ice, Chow Time, Christiano's Kitchen, Connie's BBQ, Dee Clayton, Delores "Loling" Cruz, Nana's Creation, Drift Bottle Cafe & Meal, Furusato Restaurant, Guam Army National Guard, Gupot Marianas LLC, Heavenly Bites, The Hut, Ina's Kitchen, Isla Shave Ice, Island Flowers and Novelties, Fruitties Smoothies, Island Grindz, Island Snow, Java Joe's, Jojo's Avon Outlet, Jovan Fred, Kamakazee's, Korean Restaurant Bab, Majesty Restaurant, Macpag Inc., Marck Catering, Marpac Inc./Unified Sports Org., Matty's BBQ, Meals for U, Emiat Retail General Merchandise, Mind 2 Muscle, Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History & Culture Dunking Booth, Pepoy's Restaurant, Plumeria Steak House, Pot Luck, RJ's Pizza, Sherdome's Island Grub, Sunshine Island, T Bar, Tahine's Creations, Thai Fashion Shop , Tokie Mojica/Leyah's Crafts, Crystals by Paul, Avry Marianas, Kaulia Ent., Talofa Lava, Priscilla Artworks, 670 Shop, Tyler's Gelatte Stone, Vi-Lynn's BBQ, and Yaya's Baked Goods.

Liberation Day is celebrated to mark the permanent closure on July 4, 1945, of civilian internment camps on Saipan, when indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians were allowed to fully return to their land and lives following World War II. The annual commemoration is spearheaded by the Saipan Mayor's Office and was last celebrated in 2019 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Liberation Day Parade will be held on July 4 at 10am on Beach Road from National Office Supply to Garapan Fishing Base. Festival grounds will open at 9am. Fireworks will be held at 9pm on July 4 at Garapan Fishing Base.

For more information, contact the Saipan Mayor's Office at saipanmayor@mos.gov.mp, 1 (670) .234.6208, or on Facebook@SaipanMayorsOffice. ***(PR)***

CNMI

From Page 1

that one of the two recovered while the other one is the latest fatality.

Also, the same news release reported 189 additional individuals who have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 11,759 cases since March 28, 2020.

Of the 189 cases identified from June 20 to June 26, 16 were identified on June 20 (one on Rota); 38 on June 21; 30 on June 22 (two on Tinian); 35 on June 23 (one on Rota); 20 on June 24; 29 on June 25; and 21 on June 26.

One additional case was identified June 18, 2022.

Of the total cases that have been identified in the CNMI, there have already been 11,589 recoveries; 135 active cases; and 35 COVID-19-related deaths.

The next CHCC report will be around July 5, 2022.

With the uptick in community cases, the CNMI has moved into COVID-19 Community Level Medium. Prior to this, the CNMI was at Community Level Low, based on metrics set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

While at COVID-19 Community Level Medium, CHCC recommends the following for individual persons and households:

1. Wear a mask based on your personal preference, informed by your personal level of risk;

2. If you are immunocompromised or have a high risk for severe disease;

a. Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions (e.g., testing);

b. Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or knowing how to access testing);

c. Talk to your health care provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and monoclonal antibodies;

3. If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease:

a. Consider self-testing to detect infection before contact

b. Consider wearing a mask when indoors with them

4. Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters

5. Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces whenever possible

6. Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home and isolate when they are sick (except to get medical care), even if they do not have symptoms; rest; stay hydrated; can take over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen, to relieve symptoms; and live COVID-19 safe.

Treatment

Residents of the CNMI who test positive for COVID-19 may be eligible for treatment by reporting their positive test result online at www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting within five days of the test result date. Residents requesting COVID-19 treatment should fill out the medical questionnaire in the form to get assessed as soon as possible. Reporting a positive test result online also allows residents to obtain a certificate of quarantine completion, which employers/individuals may use as documentation of a positive test result.

Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should stay home (except to get medical care or get tested for COVID-19) and live COVID-19 safe. Other options include seeing their health care provider or calling the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at (670) 233-2067. For a guidebook on how to live COVID-19 safe, visit www.staysafecnmi.com/livecovidsafe.

CHCC continues to encourage the community to get vaccinated if they have not done so, or get their booster shot if they are eligible to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, or death. People considered high risk (e.g., history of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, or cancer, or over the age of 65), immunocompromised persons, or unvaccinated individuals are at risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Unvaccinated individuals spread the virus at a higher rate than vaccinated individuals, thereby increasing the spread and risk of serious illness toward other unvaccinated individuals.

Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccination, which includes additional doses for individuals who are immunocompromised or booster doses for those who are eligible. Register for COVID-19 vaccines at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, or call (670) 236-8745.

Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines are now available for individuals aged 6 months to 4 years. Individuals aged 18 or older are eligible to avail of a booster shot; 5- to 17-year-olds can avail of a Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot. Individuals aged 50 or older or certain individuals who are immunocompromised can avail of a 2nd booster shot.

Data show that vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 infection is waning after the primary series, but protection remains high against severe disease and hospitalization.

As of June 28, 2022, a total of 23,450 COVID-19 additional/booster vaccine shots have been administered; of the eligible population, 62.8% have received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

A total of 2,503 COVID-19 tests were conducted June 20 – 26, 2022:

- 742 on June 20, 2022
- 247 on June 21, 2022
- 111 on June 22, 2022
- 604 on June 23, 2022
- 476 on June 24, 2022
- 235 on June 25, 2022
- 88 on June 26, 2022

Free COVID-19 testing is available by registering at https://covid-testing.chcc.health.

While you wait to get tested or for your test results, stay at home as much as possible and limit your contact with others. Live COVID-19 safe: wear your mask; wash your hands; watch your distance; avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces; cover coughs and sneezes; clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily; be alert for symptoms daily; and get tested for COVID-19. ***(Saipan Tribune/PR)***

HEARING

From Page 1

grants and other financial incentives to support the development and use of renewable energy in the CNMI.

The senator noted that fuel on Rota now costs over $8 a gallon and continues to increase, while the cost of electricity for the island's residents continue to soar.

On Tuesday, CUC announced that its Fuel Adjustment Charge will be increasing from 0.36225 per kilowatt-hour to 0.43285 per kWh effective July 1, 2022.

CUC said its fuel supplier, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc., has notified them that there has been an increase in the average international fuel oil prices that will affect the FAC.

Magofna said Tuesday that she would be meeting with House PUTC chair Rep. Richard Lizama (D-Saipan) first thing Wednesday morning to discuss CUC's impending power rate increase.

Magofna said they will discuss how they can assist the public through legislative action, schedule a meeting with Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission board members to see what their plans are to mitigate this issue, and consider conducting an oversight hearing with CUC as soon as possible.

CUC said it is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by CPUC, to adjust up or down the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

ORDNANCE

From Page 1

Marianas support.

EODMU-5 Det. Marianas dispatched two personnel who positively identified the ordnance as fully expended and posing no explosive threat. The round was secured and stored on Tinian for disposal.

EODMU-5 Det. Marianas officer in charge Lt. Jason Moyer said residents should remember to be careful when coming into contact with ordnance and encouraged the public to contact emergency responders should they find ordnance and vacate the area to ensure their safety.

"The UXO found throughout the Pacific can be extremely hazardous to anyone who comes across it. EODMU-5 Det. Marianas is fully committed to the safety of [CNMI] residents in helping resolve any explosive threat from UXO found throughout the NMI. When found, residents should notify [the CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services] personnel immediately to ensure that the people and the surrounding area remain safe," Moyer said.

Editor's Note: The CNMI was a site of fierce fighting during World War II and is littered with many unexploded World War II-era ordnances.

The mission of EODMU-5 Det. Marianas is to render safe all types of ordnance, conventional and unconventional, improvised, chemical, biological, and nuclear to include improvised explosive devices and weapons of mass destruction. They perform land and underwater location, identification, render-safe, and recovery or disposal of foreign and domestic ordnance. They conduct demolition of hazardous munitions, pyrotechnics, and retrograde explosives using detonation and burning techniques.

For more information on EODMU-5 Det. Marianas, visit the command's website at http://www.eodmu5.navy.mil/. ***(PR)***

BID

From Page 1

During a hearing last week on the prosecution's motion and proposed amendments to the information filed against Camacho, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo denied the motion to amend and instead suggested that Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds refile the case, this time as felony charges.

Initially, Camacho and his co-defendants were charged with assault and battery and disturbing the peace—charges that are considered misdemeanors. However, last March, Hinds informed the court that the Office of the Attorney General is proposing to amend the initial information to charge Camacho instead with aggravated assault and battery, strangulation, and disturbing the peace—two of which are considered felonies.

Govendo said he finds the amended information to be prejudicial as it isn't common for charges to grow from a misdemeanor to a felony.

Therefore, instead of amending the information against the defendants, the prosecution can refile new information, essentially filing a whole new case against the defendant, the judge said.

Camacho, 61 is accused of assaulting Steven Koch on Oct. 29, 2021, near his residence in Chinatown.

According to Hinds' motion to amend the information filed against the defendants, Hinds said it is in the best interests of the Commonwealth to amend the information to charge Camacho with aggravated assault and battery, strangulation, and disturbing the peace.

"After careful review of the evidence, additional investigation conducted by the OAG and Department of Public Safety, the Commonwealth, now asserts that the information filed on Nov. 10, 2021, must be amended to reflect the actions of the defendants on the night of Oct. 29, 2021," he said.

Hinds stated that Koch suffered serious body and psychological injuries due the actions of the defendants and the information should be amended to reflect those actions.

"Koch, as evidenced by his medical records and examinations, has sustained serious bodily/psychological injury, after the night of Oct. 29. On the night of this incident, Koch was punched multiple times and [Camacho] pinned his knee on Koch's neck, causing him to lose consciousness. The defendant's actions in this case created a high probability of death and other bodily/psychological injuries," Hinds stated.

The prosecution also informed the court that Koch's injuries could not be determined within the first weeks after the incident.

"According to Dr. Norma S. Ada, in a letter dated Nov. 2, 2021, Koch was diagnosed with a concussion as a direct result of the incident. Since the incident, Koch's symptoms have persisted. Koch has memory loss. He also developed anxiety and could not sleep without reliving the incident. Also, as a result of being hit multiple times and losing consciousness, Koch has developed vision issues and an inability to focus, which has caused him to have a hard time to walk straight, because of a loss of balance and coordination. Koch has felt the effects of these injuries for months and some injuries are still being endured," Hinds said.

The lawyer also alleges that Camacho pinned his knee on Koch's neck, impeding normal breath or circulation, causing an inability to breathe for Koch, which may have rendered him unconscious.

PRIDE

From Page 2

it's important that they know we're here and that we're here for the community as well."

The Noncommunicable Disease Bureau and Infectious Disease Program of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. was present for free health screenings and providing health information.

Dr. Lily Muldoon, CHCC Medical Director of Public Health, who described herself as an ally of the LGBTQ community, said she is "blown away" by the success of Pride Month. "It has made me proud to be a member of the CNMI community and really how CHCC has reached out to support the outreach efforts has been something that I support and I'm particularly proud of."

Other educational outreach booths included the CNMI Youth Affairs Office, the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, PSS Haligi Aware, and the Division of Youth Services.

There were also small businesses and food stalls.

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PSS obtains four new Special Education mini-buses

PSS

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, associate commissioner Eric Magofna, Special Education program director Donna Flores and PSS Federal Programs officer Tim Thornburgh receive the four new mini-vans yesterday at the PSS Lower Base's transportation hub.

PSS

Special Education director donna Flores and PSS Federal Programs director Tim Thorburgh.

The Public School System's Special Education Program recently procured four new mini-buses to add to its fleet for transporting students with disabilities to and from various public schools in the CNMI.

These mini-buses are designed for sitting passengers, equipped to safely secure up to three wheelchairs, with side or rear door loading.

Funds used to procure the mini-vans are from the Special Education Program, according to Special Education program director Donna Flores.

The vans were delivered yesterday to the main transportation hub of PSS, the Office of Pupil Transportation Office, in Lower Base.

Saipan will get two buses, while Tinian and Rota will get one each.

Flores extended her appreciation to Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, Federal Programs officer Tim Thornburgh, and the PSS Office of Pupil Transportation for overseeing this purchase for CNMI students.

Last March, PSS purchased 16 vans to further support and expand PSS' current transportation fleet, primarily providing transportation needs of all public elementary, middle and high schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. ***(PSS)***

FBI warns of deepfakes, stolen PII being used to apply for remote work positions

The FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center, or IC3, warns of an increase in complaints reporting the use of deepfakes and stolen Personally Identifiable Information, or PII, to apply for a variety of remote work and work-at-home positions.

Deepfakes include a video, an image, or recording convincingly altered and manipulated to misrepresent someone as doing or saying something that was not actually done or said.

The remote work or work-from-home positions identified in these reports include information technology and computer programming, database, and software related job functions. Notably, some reported positions include access to customer PII, financial data, corporate IT databases and/or proprietary information.

Complaints report the use of voice spoofing, or potentially voice deepfakes, during online interviews of the potential applicants. In these interviews, the actions and lip movement of the person seen interviewed on-camera do not completely coordinate with the audio of the person speaking. At times, actions such as coughing, sneezing, or other auditory actions are not aligned with what is presented visually.

IC3 complaints also depict the use of stolen PII to apply for these remote positions. Victims have reported the use of their identities and pre- employment background checks discovered PII given by some of the applicants belonged to another individual.

Companies or victims who identify this type of activity should report it to the IC3, www.ic3.gov.

If available, include any subject information such as IP or email addresses, phone numbers, or names provided. ***(FBI)***

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB22-OPM-42200126
SUBMISSION DATE: July 21, 2022 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANCES TORRES-SALAS
DIRECTOR OF OPM

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-034

PROVISION OF OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE POWER GENERATION PLANT SYSTEMS ON THE ISLAND OF TINIAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the provision of operations, maintenance, and management services for the Power Plant Systems on the Island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-034, Operations, Maintenance, and Management Services for The Power Plant Systems on the island of Tinian" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 28, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 8, 2022,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, at email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan at email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Name: CORAZON GABRIEL LOVERAS
Address: PMB 720 P.O. BOX 1000
Phone: (670) 989-6301
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of: CORAZON GABRIEL LOVERAS, Petitioner : FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0091 : **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 11, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 10th day of March, 2022.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/S/
By: Deputy Clerk Court

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 500861 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-3200/1
FAX: (670) 664-3237
info@mymarianas.com
www.mymarianas.com
The Marianas

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Special Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Saturday, July 2, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.** at **Aqua Resort Club**.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   a. Marketing
      i. CDBG-DR
4) **Old Business**
   a. Tourism Resumption Investment Plan (TRIP) Grant Program
5) **Executive Session**
6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

AS PART OF PRIDE MONTH ACTIVITIES

Tinian's Natibu Park gets new outdoor furniture

The Tinian Pride Heart Monument at the Tinian Natibu Park just got more accommodating with the installation of outdoor marble tables and chairs that were unveiled in a ribbon-cutting ceremony last June 23.

The ceremony, which was led by the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan, concluded the activities for this year's Pride Month celebration with what was billed as a "Sit at this table with PRIDE" ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Acting governor Jude Hofschneider, Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, members of the Tinian leadership, government officials, Haligi Aware, community members, and the LGBTQ+ community gathered at the Natibu Park for the unveiling of the new fixtures.

The ceremony focused on the significance of June as Pride Month and the outdoor furniture is intended for the community to enjoy.

Hofschneider commended the people of Tinian on the addition to the park and mentioned the importance of creating safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ community.

Aldan reiterated the work that must be done to continue to promote inclusiveness and advance equal rights until a state of equality for all is achieved.

He extended appreciation to the 22nd Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation for funding the outdoor marble tables and to the Public School System's Haligi Aware program for helping make this year's Pride Month activities possible.

Frank Lee San Nicolas Borja from Project Haligi Aware spoke of the importance of allyship, its meaning, and how working together could positively impact marginalized groups such as LGBTQ+ communities.

"Partnerships like ours with the Tinian Mayor's Office and Mayor Aldan, the Tinian Legislative Delegation and leadership are important not only because it takes a village to raise a child. But when the child feels like the village doesn't care for them, they can turn against it. …Care is important because we need to make kids feel like they matter," Borja said.

The Tinian municipality jumpstarted its Pride Month activities with a roadside waving on June 1 and a Pride Month proclamation signing on June 7. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acting governor Jude Hofschneider, Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, Sen. Karl King-Nabors, 18th Tinian Municipal Council vice chair Thomasa Mendiola, Homeland Security director Dennis Mendiola, Frank Lee Borja of the Public School System's Haligi Aware, and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services deputy commissioner Ray Dela Cruz Jr. sit at the newly installed marble tables.

HAPPY
4TH OF JULY
WEEKEND BRUNCH
Join us to Celebrate our Freedom
and Those We Hold Dear
Operation: Friday July 1 & Sunday July 3 (11:30 – 14:00)
Price: Adult $49 / Child 4-11 yrs. $24.50
Special Discount for US Military & Veteran $29.50
EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR CNMI RESIDENTS
Unlimited Champagne, Beer, Wines,
Fresh Orange Juice, Lemonade, Coffee and Tea
Friday July 1 Sushi & Seafood Brunch Buffet
Sunday July 3 International Brunch Buffet
Free Swimming Pool Pass until 5 pm
SAIPAN
CORAL OCEAN
RESORT
INQUIRY & RESERVATION: (670) 234-7000

NMC hosts free FAFSA application workshops

It's not too late to apply for federal financial aid. Students who are looking for assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Financial Aid are encouraged to attend the upcoming workshops hosted by Northern Marianas College.

The workshops will provide personal assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, form before the Aug. 1, 2022 application deadline for the fall 2022 semester. The workshops are open to both new and ongoing students, as well as interested members in the community.

The free FAFSA workshops will be held at NMC's Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library on the following dates:

- Wednesday, July 6, from 2pm to 4pm
- Wednesday, July 13, from 9am to 11pm
- Wednesday, July 20, from 1pm to 3pm
- Tuesday, July 26, from 9am to 11am and 4pm to 6pm
- Thursday July 28, from 10am to 12pm and 4pm to 6pm

Workshop participants can also have their scholarship documents and other paperwork photocopied free of charge. Participants will also qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived.

Participants are encouraged to bring documents such as valid identification (passport or birth certificate), copies of their high school diploma, copies of official transcripts, and tax return information for the years 2020 and 2021.

For more information contact the Financial Aid Office at fao@marianas.edu or at 237-6791/2/3/4. ***(NMC)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Uvalde was an 'abject failure,' but there's more to the story

We wish that we had a clear explanation for law enforcement's tragically slow response to a gunman threatening and then murdering 19 children and two teachers in their elementary school in Uvalde. That, however, requires a greater commitment to transparency.

For weeks now, we've heard the Texas Department of Public Safety, Uvalde city officials and Uvalde school district police Chief Pete Arredondo tell different versions of events, which doesn't give us much faith that they're on a common path toward the truth. Media requests have been slow-walked on grounds that public disclosure could interfere with investigations by the federal government, the Texas Rangers and a closed-door legislative committee.

With competing narratives abounding, more transparency, not less, is essential. Rightly frustrated, state Sen. Roland Gutierrez, a Democrat from San Antonio whose district includes Uvalde, last week filed a lawsuit accusing the Texas Department of Public Safety of ignoring his inquiries and covering up details about the police response.

The bunker mentality among those who had roles in the response is part of the problem.

At a legislative public hearing on school security and safety, DPS Director Steven McCraw walked through the department's timeline of events and called the slow response of local police "an abject failure" that violated nationally accepted protocols of active shooter training.

Immediately, Uvalde Mayor Don McLaughlin accused state authorities of scapegoating local law enforcement and cherry-picking information to obscure DPS' role in the standoff. "McCraw has continued to, whether you want to call it, lie, leak … mislead or misstate information in order to distance his own troopers and rangers from the response," McLaughlin said at a special City Council meeting. More transparency is needed from DPS, but McLaughlin also needs to come forward if he knows something that DPS isn't disclosing.

Other troubling inconsistencies must be resolved, too. According to Arredondo, classroom doors were locked and he couldn't get in. However, McCraw says the doors were unlocked and no keys were needed. Arredondo also says he did not consider himself to be the incident commander at the scene. Other evidence from McCraw seems to indicate that Arredondo was acting in that role during critical moments.

The families of the victims and every Texan deserve better from law enforcement agencies and politicians whose prime responsibility is to serve the public interest, not their

See UVALDE on Next Page

The story of an egg

Editor's Note: The following is the third-place winner in the My Marianas Writing Contest of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. It is being reprinted here at the request of the council. The first- and second-place winning essays were published on June 28 and 29, 2022.

By HONEY JUNE SATUR
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The pavement feels hot on my *tsinelas* (flip-flops), the hot sun burns through my skin. As I cross the streets of Manila, the loud shouts of *titas* and *ates* (aunts, sisters [mainly honorific]) fill the air, enticing you to come buy from their *tindahan* (store). I hid behind Papa, my small, delicate hand enclosed in his big, rough ones. The death of my aunt was the reason for my visit to the Philippines. This was the first time I had been exposed to my native home, language, and culture. When I was told about the trip, my 5-year-old self didn't expect this . The smell of sweat, gasoline, and street food filled my nose while my brain debated whether I should look around. Letting my curiosity take over me, I peek out from my Papa's back, and that moment marks the first time I had ever been curious about my heritage. This was the moment when my brain finally understood the reason why my parents miss their home country so much.

Seeing jeepneys and tricycles, feeling the warm breeze and hot sun, hearing the shouts of people calling me over to try their *paninda* (wares), it felt comforting. However, what stood out to me the most was the voice of the man selling *balut*. It was loud, but not overwhelming, and it had a friendly tone. Turning my eyes toward the vendor, a line as long as a snake is seen. The line is filled with a diverse number of people: old, young, short, all, girls, boys. Confused as to why there's such a long line, I pull on my Papa's hand. He bends down to match my height, and I ask, "What is *balut*, Pa? Why are there so many people there?" A laugh erupts from his mouth, he explains that *balut* is a fertilized duck egg.My mouth opens in shock. A duck egg? Papa continues on, saying that it's an embryo that's a week short of hatching. I was immediately repulsed by the idea, my face contorting into an expression of distaste. While my small brain tries to process everything, I notice my dad has left my side. Panic fills my body and suddenly my blood runs cold. Anxiety rises to my stomach and I feel sick, where did he go? I turn and look around in concern, on the verge of tears. My name is called, and there is Papa, lining up at the *balut* stand. I exhale in relief and wipe away at my teary eyes. I allow myself to calm down for a few seconds as the warm breeze comes back and my blood warms once again. Wind hits my face as I run to Papa. As I inch closer, the smell of salt and vinegar infiltrates my nose, which I cover in order to try and stop any more odor from coming through my nostrils. Papa exchanges smiles and friendly conversation with the vendor, and it clicks. Although my thought process wasn't detail-oriented at the time, the feeling of my heart warming at the sight is engraved in my mind. Even with my limited mental capacity, I came to the conclusion that *balut* isn't just a food. It's a staple of Philippine cuisine, a symbol of strength and resilience for people.

Balut means "wrapped" when translated into English.It appears as a regular egg, but don't let its appearance deceive you. When its shell is peeled, the contents usually surprise those who are not familiar with the dish. Inside, you will find a yellow yolk and a duck fetus. The yolk is what the fetus eats during its developing period. The perfect *balut* is usually fermented for 17-18 days and has a whitish covering around it. Is your face scrunching with concern yet? For those who haven't been exposed to the dish, it may seem like a nightmare to consume, however, this unique delicacy has brought families and friends together for many centuries. Since its original introduction by the Chinese in 1885, the dish has weaved through history and is now a signature snack. I used to hate seeing Papa eat *balut*. When he described it to me that day, I was confused. Why would people eat this? And for a long time, it stayed that way. Until one day, the sight of smiles and laughter being shared over this unique treat changed my perspective.

Picture this, you're at a Filipino family reunion. The smell of barbecue being grilled and the sound of laughter fill the area. You stick to one corner, wanting to head home and fall into your soft bed. As you look around to observe your surroundings, the view of men holding beers in one hand and *balut* in the other, women chatting in another area, and kids running around are all overwhelming your senses. The breeze hits your skin as you try at another attempt to find peace. However, that attempt quickly fails due to an interruption. Your *tito* (uncle), whom you haven't seen in years, walks up to you, holding a *balut* in one hand accompanied by a smile on his face. He offers the food to you, and your head shakes in refusal. A sigh erupts from his mouth and the seat beside you is now his. A look is shared between you both, and an awkward silence follows. The corners of your *tito*'s mouth lifts and you brace yourself, thinking that this will be another "When I was your age" discussion, like it usually is. Except for this occasion. The words that are about to leave him will forever follow me in life.

"I know what you kids think about *balut*.It doesn't sound nor look appealing at all. However, this very egg has a great history

See EGG on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The most livestreams in Pacific Games history

By GALVIN DELEON GUERRERO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD, is president of the Northern Marianas College and executive producer of the 2022 Pacific Mini Games Broadcasting.

It was a historic occasion for the Northern Mariana Islands to host the Pacific Mini Games 2022. Not only was it the first time for the CNMI to host the Games, but we held the Games despite years of setbacks from typhoons to a turbulent economy to a global pandemic. Indeed, "Rising up to the challenge" was a fitting theme for us as we welcomed thousands of athletes, officials, and dignitaries from 19 countries across the Pacific to our beautiful islands. It was humbling that the Pacific Games Council, Council president Vidya Lakhan, and council chief executive officer Andrew Minogue had enough faith in us to host the Games despite all the challenges and delays. Much credit and thanks go to the chairman for the Games Organizing Committee, Marco T Peter; the chief executive officer for the games, Vicente "Ben" Babauta; the president of the Northern Marianas Sports Association, Jerry Tan; Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and everyone in the Commonwealth that contributed, in one way or another, to the Games. And, of course, congratulations to all the athletes from the Northern Marianas who played their hearts out and made us proud by bringing home the most medals in the Commonwealth's history.

For our part, Northern Marianas College was privileged to be entrusted with broadcasting and video coverage of the Games, something that truly required a community effort. That is why we are very thankful for all the help provided by platinum sponsor IT&E; Inoke Bainimarama, Sitiveni Tawakevou, and the Oceania National Olympics Committees; TJ Manglona, Denton Pangelinan, and the Governor's Office's media team; Jesse Deleon Guerrero and the CNMI Office of Information Technology; Christopher Nelson and his team at KSPN2 News; Jojo Alepuyo and his crew at Marianas High School; Tom Leonard and Badminton Oceania; Keoni Hosono, Ramon "Ray" Tebuteb, Nishtah Sharma Thomas, and the PMG staff; and NMC vice president Frankie Eliptico and his PMG media crew. In particular, we owe much appreciation to the college's core broadcasting team—Renedel Buno, Miguel Dandan, James "Bodig" Deleon Guerrero, Rita Duan, Casey Huliganga, and Dennis Marcelo—and a crew of over 50 volunteers. They all worked from the crack of dawn until late into the evening almost everyday of the Games to set up gear, stream the events, troubleshoot problems, and strike the gear afterwards, all the while battling extreme summer heat, strong winds, or flash storms.

Together, we pulled off nothing short of a miracle. We featured perhaps the most livestreams in Pacific Games history, reached an audience of half a million viewers, and helped family and friends of athletes watch and cheer from around the globe. And, despite an accelerated training schedule, technical glitches that kept propping up, and some missteps made along the way, our team members—many of whom had never even touched a video camera a week before the Games—responded to all the challenges with grace and grit. They were able to learn, adapt, and improve with each and every broadcast. For that, and for them, we should be grateful and proud.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hit the road now

OK, maybe I'm slow on the uptake. Perhaps I'm missing some subtext here but to me it would seem that IPI is attempting the bamboozle the CNMI once again.

Am I wrong or didn't IPI not deliver on its promises and legal obligations to the Commonwealth for several years prior to the global SARS-CoV-2 pandemic? It would seem that IPI is attempting to deflect attention from its repeated failures and to use the international pandemic-related economic downturn to justify and excuse its continued lack of capital, questionable business, labor and worker safety practices, and continued contempt for the people of the CNMI.

Correct me if I am mistaken but it seems what we have is a People's Republic of China-based and likely CCP-backed (Hong Kong is the PRC) corporation that repeatedly failed to deliver on its end of binding obligations and now wants us to believe that they have signed some pie-in-the-sky deal with other PRC-based companies to build another mall to sell expensive, and likely counterfeit, garbage no one needs, to finish construction and to rent out "luxury" digs to high-rolling rubes (at stated rates no imaginable/legitimate market could or would support).

Should myself and the rest of CNMI residents not pay their bills or fines, they would likely find their utilities shut-off, be evicted from where they live, and possibly be arrested and jailed. When IPI does the same for years and to the tune of millions of dollars, they get repeated passes (no doubt in due to their obviously sketchy business practices and the amount of political influence they have bought).

Time is now for the people and politicians of the CNMI to inform IPI that enough is enough and our collective patience is exhausted. The end of the rope has been reached. IPI repeatedly proved they are an unreliable partner and that their corporate word is worthless. So IPI, time to pay up, show some good faith actions (like maybe dismantling all the tower cranes they agreed to lower months ago), stop delaying and trying to run-out the clock with bogus promises, excuses and stalling or hit the road back to the PRC. And don't come back no more, no more.

Mark Farmer
Garapan, Saipan

UVALDE

From Page 8

own. The common public interest must be to determine how and why so many died when faster action in line with nationally accepted active shooter protocols would have saved lives.

Police officers were inside the elementary school and outside the classroom within minutes of the shooter's entry, but more than a hour elapsed before an assault team waiting in the hallway with ballistic shields, body armor and rifles entered the classroom and resolved the incident.

At least that's the story as it stands now. However, it is probably just the first chapter and far from the complete story.

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Voting rights

By JEANNE RAYPHAND
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

As we look forward to the November elections, issues are being raised regarding who is eligible to vote here in the CNMI and who is disqualified from voting.

Article VII of the Commonwealth Constitution states:

Section 1: Qualifications of Voters. A person is eligible to vote who, on the date of the election, is eighteen years of age or older, is domiciled in the Commonwealth, is a resident of the Commonwealth and has resided in the Commonwealth for a period of time provided bylaw, is not serving a sentence for a felony, has not been found by a court to be of unsound mind, and is either a citizen of national of the United States. The legislature may require that persons eligible to vote be citizens of the United States.

Section 2. Prohibition of Literacy Requirement. A person may not be denied the right to vote because that person is unable to read or write.

Section 3. Domicile and Residence…

See also 1 CMC § 6201.

Issues seem to arise when someone is or has been jailed, or when someone is perceived to be mentally limited or when a person is unable to read or write. However, just because someone has been in jail or appears incompetent or cannot read or write does not disqualify a person from voting. Our CNMI Constitution protects the right to vote, and disqualification is limited and specific.

Persons "serving a sentence for a felony" includes persons on parole or probation or under a suspended sentence after conviction of a felony. "The disqualification, however, ends when the person has served the sentence or the suspension, probation or parole has expired…and also ends with the grant of a pardon." *Analysis of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, art. VII, § 1, p. 123 (Dec. 6, 1976)*. Note that this section refers to a felony conviction, not a misdemeanor conviction.

Disqualification for persons found to be of unsound mind by a court includes "determination of insanity by criminal courts, determinations of unsound mind in civil commitment proceedings, and determinations of unsound mind in any other kind of court proceeding." *Analysis of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, art. VII, §1, p. 124 (Dec. 6, 1976)*

The prohibition of literacy requirement "prohibits the use of any literacy test as a qualification to vote…[and] applies to any requirements that a person demonstrate an ability to speak, read, or write any language, including English, Chamorro and Carolinian…[and] prohibits any kind of educational requirements for voter eligibility." *Analysis of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, art. VII, § 2, p.124 (Dec. 6, 1976).*

Voting is a right and one of the most important civic responsibilities of citizens of the United States. Register and vote!

If you are a person with disabilities and are having trouble or being denied the right to register and vote, contact the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.at (670) 235-7273/4 or www.nmpasi.org.

EGG

From Page 8

behind it. Do you ever wonder why it's named *balut*? Because translated, it means wrapped, and this simple egg has wrapped millions of Filipinos together in a way that nothing else could." I look at my tito in confusion, but he continues. "[The] Philippines isn't exactly a place where people have never experienced poverty. Actually, a lot of the people have had to adapt and create food out of what they already have. Our ancestors learned to make use of every single part of a chicken and to turn common food into their dinner. They were poor, yes, but their inventions were so innovative that it still has an impact on our society today. This *balut* isn't just a snack to be paired with beer, it is a symbol of strength and resilience of our culture. It's a symbol of how tough we Filipinos are. Look around, Honey, don't you see the smiles of the people around you?" I turned around to look, and there it was, the precious grins of my relatives. Just then, it felt like a revelation. My brain clicked all the puzzle pieces together, and I could imagine it; I could imagine the hardships, struggles, and days of starvation that my ancestors went through. My body turned to my dad, who didn't have the privilege of wealth in his childhood, and I see him consume the food he learned to eat. On that day, I learned that *balut* isn't just a mere food, it's a comfort, a reminder, and an act of patriarchy to the people of the Philippines.

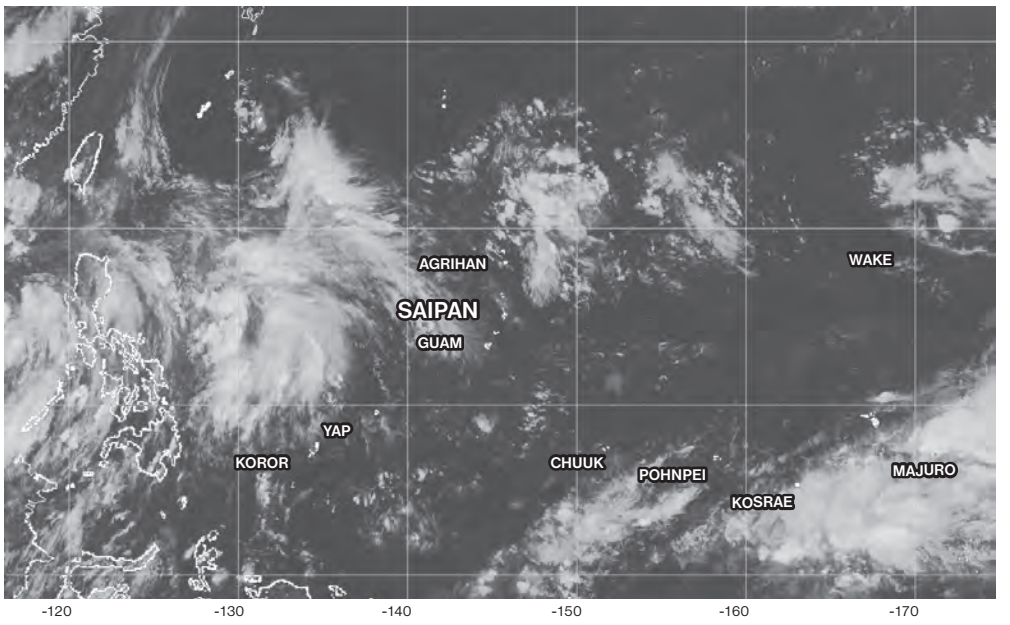
Now, whenever I hear foreigners become disgusted at my culture's food, my heart twists. Whenever I hear my friends laughing at their parents for consuming such a dish, I tell them the same story that my *tito* did many years ago. The knowledge weighs heavy on my shoulders, just like the weight of the world that Atlas carries on his, and at any chance given, I remind those who lack the understanding that *balut* is a comfort and a taste of nostalgia. A taste of family and is one of the many beauties from the Philippines. And how it "*baluts*" the hearts of people together.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly cloudy.	Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy.	Partly sunny.	Scattered showers. Partly sunny.	Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy.
88° 78°	87° 77°	88° 79°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 10:01 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows almost no showers within the Marianas Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed mainly of east-northeast trade-wind swell and east-southeast wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 75°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Kosrae	Showers	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:26 AM	7:54 PM	-
Friday	7:18 AM	8:40 PM	-
Saturday	8:10 AM	9:23 PM	-
Sunday	9:01 AM	10:03 PM	-
Monday	9:51 AM	10:41 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59° / 54°
Beijing	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 71°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	87° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°
London	Light Rain	87° / 64°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	89° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 44°
Miami	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
New York	Sunny	84° / 69°
Osaka	Sunny	93° / 77°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	80° / 58°
Busan	Thunderstorms	81° / 74°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	91° / 67°
Salem	Thunderstorms	90° / 73°
San Francisco	Cloudy	61° / 53°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	78° / 74°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	95° / 77°
Washington, DC	Sunny	88° / 67°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:50 AM	Low Tide	1.48
7:09 AM	High Tide	1.89
2:45 PM	Low Tide	-0.08
10:08 PM	High Tide	1.95

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	7
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

A184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	7
BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

China's Baidu races Waymo, GM to develop self-driving cars

BEIJING (AP)—With no one at the wheel, a self-driving taxi developed by tech giant Baidu Inc. is rolling down a Beijing street when its sensors spot the corner of a delivery cart jutting into its lane.

The taxi stops a half-car-length away. "So sorry," a recorded voice tells passengers. The steering wheel turns on its own as the taxi makes its way around the cart. A Baidu technician watches from the front passenger seat.

Baidu is China's highest-profile competitor in a multibillion-dollar race with rival autonomous vehicle developers including Alphabet Inc.'s Waymo and General Motors Co.'s Cruise to turn their futuristic tech into a consumer product.

Baidu and a rival, Pony.ai, received China's first licenses in April to operate taxis with no one in the driver's seat but with a safety supervisor on board. That came 18 months after Waymo started driverless ride-hailing service in Phoenix, Arizona, in October 2020.

Founded in 2000 as a search engine operator, Baidu has expanded into artificial intelligence, processor chips and other technology. It says its autonomous vehicles could, if successful, make driving cheaper, easier and safer.

A technician monitors the self-driving taxi developed by tech giant Baidu Inc. on June 14, 2022, in Beijing. AP

"We believe the top goal of autonomous driving is to reduce human-caused traffic accidents," said Wei Dong, vice president of Baidu's Intelligent Driving Group.

Autonomous driving is one of an array of emerging technologies from artificial intelligence to renewable energy that China companies are pouring billions of dollars into trying to create, urged on by the ruling Communist Party.

Beijing wants to join the United States, Europe and Japan in the ranks of technology powers to build its prosperity and global influence. That holds out the possibility of new inventions but also fuels tension with Washington and its allies, which see China as a strategic challenger.

Baidu's Apollo autonomous driving platform was launched in 2017 and the Apollo Go self-driving taxi service three years later.

Maria Ressa: Philippines affirms order for shutdown

HONOLULU (AP)—Filipino journalist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Ressa announced in a speech in Hawaii Tuesday that the Philippine government is affirming a previous order to shut down Rappler, the news website she co-founded, which has gained notoriety for its reporting of President Rodrigo Duterte's bloody crackdown on illegal drugs.

The Philippines' Securities and Exchange Commission affirmed its earlier decision to revoke the certificates of incorporation of Rappler, Ressa said while speaking at the East-West Center in Honolulu.

"Part of the reason I didn't have much sleep last night is because we essentially got a shutdown order," Ressa told the audience.

Last year, Ressa became the first Filipino and she and Russian Dmitry Muratov became the first working journalists in more than 80 years to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

MILLENNIAL MONEY: Getting therapy when cost is a barrier

By SARA RATHNER
NERDWALLET

The race to find mental health treatment can feel like a marathon when you may not have the energy or ability to even make it to the starting line. You may be faced with limited affordable options and a lack of available therapists.

"Prior to the pandemic, we had an inadequate workforce to meet the mental health demand of the country," says Vaile Wright, who has a doctorate in counseling psychology and is the senior director of health care innovation at the American Psychological Association. "And that has only been exacerbated by the pandemic."

According to the APA's 2021 COVID-19 Practitioner Survey, 43% of psychologists reported an increase in overall number of patients compared with 2020. At the same time, 41% of psychologists said they couldn't keep up with demand and 46% felt burned out.

Thankfully, there are multiple ways to access care at a variety of price points, including telehealth options.

Use resources that you might already have

Your employer may offer an employee assistance program, or EAP, which can connect you, your spouse or partner and your children with various services including short-term counseling. Review your benefits to see what your EAP provides, if you have one.

If you have school-aged children, their guidance counselor can be a helpful resource not just for academic concerns, but also for more personal, social and behavioral issues. College students may also have access to free or low-cost counseling services on campus.

And don't forget primary care physicians and OB-GYNs. Annual preventative care visits, which are free with insurance, are an opportunity to talk about your mental health. Your doctor might prescribe medication or refer you to other practitioners. Dr. Carlene MacMillan, co-chair of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Consumer Issues Committee, recommends setting aside time during your routine appointment to talk about your mental health.

"If you're healthy mentally, physically it's easier to take care of whatever else is going on," she says.

Search for providers who take your insurance

You can search for in-network providers through your health insurance company, but MacMillan cautions that the information there might be out of date. Double-check with Psychology Today (yes, as in the magazine). Its website has a search tool you can use to find therapists, psychiatrists, treatment centers and support groups. According to MacMillan, the search results from this tool could be more up to date than some insurance databases.

Alma and Headway are two additional websites where you can search for providers who accept your health insurance.

Ask if therapists offer reduced pricing

Many therapists set aside appointment slots for patients who can't afford the full hourly rate. Ask therapists in your area if they accept patients on a sliding scale, meaning they lower their rates based on your income. And if you're open to group therapy, that can cost less than seeing a therapist one-on-one.

You can also look beyond private practices. "Most places, at least cities, have community mental health centers that offer a sliding scale," says Nance Roy, chief clinical officer at The Jed Foundation, or JED, a nonprofit with the goal of supporting and protecting mental health for teens and young adults.

Open Path is a nonprofit that can help you find affordable care if your household income is less than $100,000 a year and you either lack health insurance or your insurance plan doesn't offer mental health benefits . You can join their mental health collective by paying $59 for a lifetime membership. From there, you'll be able to access therapy for a per-session fee of $30 to $60 for individual counseling, or $30 to $80 for couples or families.

Turn to teaching hospitals

Hospitals and universities in your area may have programs where you can see a clinician in training, who is supervised by a licensed practitioner, for a lower cost. Look for local teaching hospitals or colleges with psychology programs.

Get help virtually

Use of telehealth expanded because of COVID-19, when privacy regulations adjusted to allow more ways for patients to communicate with medical professionals. Even now that in-person appointments are back, virtual appointments are still an option that's especially convenient for anyone who previously had to take off work or pay for a babysitter to attend sessions.

"The possibilities of how you can consume mental health care is where the disruption really happened," says Heela Gonen, vice president of strategic partnerships and communications at BetterHelp, an online therapy platform. "You see that people are not going back."

Mental health platforms like BetterHelp and Brightside make it possible to communicate with a therapist on a video or phone call, or through text. For kids and teens, MacMillan recommends Little Otter and Brightline.

Add on some self-care

While you search for a therapist, or in between appointments, it can be helpful to incorporate mindfulness practices into your day, like meditation, breathing exercises or even just going for a walk and observing everything around you.

"The research is clear on the value of mindfulness in terms of promoting mental health," Roy says. "It's not about stopping your thoughts, it's about letting them pass."

Nation

San Antonio migrant deaths lead to slow effort to ID victims

AP
A man pays his respects at the site where officials found dozens of people dead in a semi-trailer containing suspected migrants, Tuesday, June 28, 2022, in San Antonio.

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Victims have been found with no identification documents at all and in one case a stolen ID. Remote villages lack phone service to reach family members and determine the whereabouts of missing migrants. Fingerprint data has to be shared and matched by different governments.

More than a day after the discovery of 51 dead migrants in a stifling trailer in San Antonio, few identities of the victims have been made public, illustrating the challenges authorities face in tracing people who cross borders clandestinely.

By Tuesday afternoon, medical examiners had potentially identified 34 of the victims, said Bexar County Commissioner Rebeca Clay-Flores, who represents the district where the truck was abandoned. Those identities were not yet confirmed pending additional steps, such as fingerprints, and she described it as a challenge with no timeline on when the process might be finished.

"It's a tedious, tedious, sad, difficult process," she said.

The bodies were discovered Monday afternoon on the outskirts of San Antonio in what is believed to be the nation's deadliest smuggling episode on the U.S.-Mexico border. More than a dozen people were taken to hospitals, including four children. Three people have been arrested.

The tragedy occurred at a time when huge numbers of migrants have been coming to the U.S., many of them taking perilous risks to cross swift rivers and canals and scorching desert landscapes. Migrants were stopped nearly 240,000 times in May, up by one-third from a year ago.

With little information about the victims, desperate families of migrants from Mexico and Central America frantically sought word of their loved ones.

Among the dead, 27 are believed to be of Mexican origin based on documents they were carrying, according to Rubén Minutti, the Mexico consul general in San Antonio. Several survivors were in critical condition with injuries such as brain damage and internal bleeding, he said. About 30 people had reached out to the Mexican Consulate looking for loved ones, officials said.

Guatemala's foreign ministry said late Tuesday that it had confirmed two hospitalized Guatemalans and was working to identify three possible Guatemalans among the dead. Honduras' foreign relations ministry said it was working to confirm the identities of four people who died in the truck and carried Honduran papers.

Eva Ferrufino, spokeswoman for Honduras' foreign ministry, said her agency is working with the Honduras consulate in south Texas to match names and fingerprints and complete identifications.

The process is painstaking because among the pitfalls are fake or stolen documents.

Clinics scramble to divert patients as states ban abortion

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and LINDSEY TANNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

They call her, desperate, scared and often broke. Some are rape and domestic violence victims. Others are new mothers, still breastfeeding infants. Another pregnancy so soon, they say, is something they just can't handle.

"Heart wrenching," said Angela Huntington, an abortion navigator for Planned Parenthood in Missouri, who is helping callers reschedule canceled abortion appointments—sometimes hundreds of miles away from their homes—after the fall of Roe v. Wade.

The ruling has set off a travel scramble across the country, with a growing number of states mostly banning the procedure. Clinics operators are moving, doctors are counseling crying patients, donations are pouring into nonprofits and one group is dispatching vans to administer abortion pills. Some cities — like Kansas City and St. Louis — also are drafting plans to help with the travel logistics.

Huntington has been preparing for this moment for months. Even before the U.S. Supreme Court's decision last week to end constitutional protection for abortion, the procedure had become difficult to nearly impossible to obtain in states including Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

"Basically," she said, they were "living in a post Roe era."

Now a fresh round of laws are taking effect. Staff at a clinic in Nashville were flooded with calls from patients trying to understand the new legal landscape, after a federal court on Tuesday allowed the state's ban on abortion as early as six weeks into pregnancy to take effect.

In Arkansas, some patients already were headed to a Planned Parenthood clinic in Little Rock to obtain medication-induced abortions when the decision came down last week. Upon arriving, they were sent home.

"I cannot believe this is happening today," they told Huntington. Or alternatively, they muttered, their voices oozing with sarcasm, " Of course it's happening today."

Aide: Trump dismissed Jan. 6 threats, wanted to join crowd

WASHINGTON (AP)—Donald Trump rebuffed his own security's warnings about armed protesters in the Jan. 6 rally crowd and made desperate attempts to join his supporters as they marched to the Capitol, according to dramatic new testimony Tuesday before the House committee investigating the 2021 insurrection.

Cassidy Hutchinson, a little-known former White House aide, described an angry, defiant president that day who was trying to let armed protesters avoid security screenings at a rally that morning to protest his 2020 election defeat and who later grabbed at the steering wheel of the presidential SUV when the Secret Service refused to let him go to the Capitol.

Hutchinson

And when the events at the Capitol spiraled toward violence, with the crowd chanting to "Hang Mike Pence," she testified that Trump declined to intervene.

Trump "doesn't think they're doing anything wrong," Hutchinson recalled hearing from her boss, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows.

Hutchinson's explosive, moment-by-moment account of what was happening inside and outside the White House offered a vivid description of a president so unwilling to concede his 2020 election defeat to Joe Biden that he acted out in rage and refused to stop the siege at the Capitol. It painted a damning portrait of the chaos at the White House as those around the defeated president splintered into one faction supporting his false claims of voter fraud and another trying unsuccessfully to put an end to the violent attack.

ACROSS THE NATION

New indictments returned in Texas against convicted murderer

MCKINNEY, Texas (AP)—Four new capital murder indictments were returned Tuesday against a convicted murderer from the Dallas-area, with authorities now having brought charges against him in the deaths of 22 older women in Collin and adjoining Dallas County. A Collin County grand jury indicted Billy Chemirmir, 50, on single capital murder counts in each of the 2017 deaths of Marilyn Bixler, 90; Diane Delahunty, 79; Helen Lee, 82; and Mamie Miya, 93. Chemirmir already has been convicted in Dallas County of capital murder in the 2018 death of 81-year-old Lu Thi Harris. Prosecutors were not seeking the death penalty, so Chemirmir was sentenced automatically to life in prison without parole. "These indictments should serve as a reminder that every victim of a violent crime deserves to have their case investigated and prosecuted, and Collin County law enforcement and prosecutors will work every day to hold violent offenders accountable," said Collin County District Attorney Greg Willis in a statement.

In flurry of court activity, rulings on abortion bans mixed

A federal court Tuesday allowed Tennessee to ban abortions as early as six weeks into pregnancy, while in Texas—which is already enforcing a similar ban based on an embryo's cardiac activity—a judge temporarily blocked an even stricter decades-old law from taking effect. The moves were among a flurry of action at courthouses across the country after the U.S. Supreme Court last week overturned Roe v. Wade and ruled that terminating a pregnancy is not a constitutional right. Statewide bans or other restrictions that were either left on the books for generations, tied up by legal challenges or specifically designed to take effect if Roe were to fall are now in play as a result of the high court's ruling. Roughly half the states are expected to prohibit or severely limit the procedure now that the high court has left it up to them. Since Friday, judges have agreed to allow bans or other restrictions to take effect in Alabama, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee. ***(AP)***

US officials announce more steps against monkeypox outbreak

NEW YORK (AP)—Reacting to a surprising and growing monkeypox outbreak, U.S. health officials on Tuesday expanded the group of people recommended to get vaccinated against the monkeypox virus. They also said they are providing more monkeypox vaccine, working to expand testing, and taking other steps to try to get ahead of the outbreak. "We will continue to take aggressive action against this virus," said Dr. Ashish Jha, White House COVID-19 response coordinator, who has also been playing a role in how the government deals with monkeypox. The administration said it was expanding the pool of people who are advised to get vaccinated to include those who may realize on their own that they could have been infected. That includes men who who have recently had sex with men at parties or in other gatherings in cities where monkeypox cases have been identified.

Asia

Drug killings leave agony and a savage facet to Duterte's legacy

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—When Emily Soriano recounts how her 15-year-old son was gunned down with four friends and two other residents while partying in a Philippine slum six years ago, she weeps in grief and anger like the massacre happened yesterday.

Police concluded at the time that the bloodbath in a riverside shantytown in Caloocan city in the Manila metropolis was set off by a drug gang war. But Soriano angrily blamed four plainclothes police officers and the brutal anti-drug crackdown of outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte for the 2016 killings.

"He didn't lead like a father to the country. He became a monster. His persona and the fury on his face are scary," Soriano said of Duterte in an interview with The Associated Press.

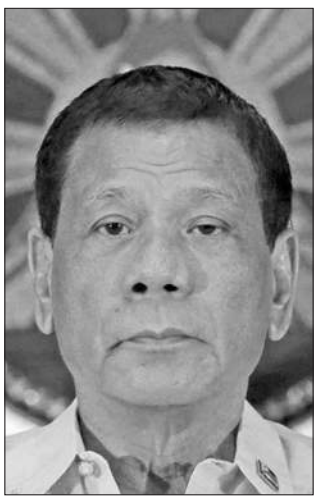
The thousands of killings under Duterte's brutal campaign against illegal drugs—unprecedented in its scale and lethality in recent Philippine history and the alarm it set off worldwide—are leaving families of the dead in agony, an International Criminal Court investigation and a savage side to Duterte's legacy as his turbulent six-year presidency ends today.

One of Asia's most unorthodox contemporary leaders, Duterte, now 77 and frail of health, is closing out more than three decades in the country's often-rowdy politics, where he built a political name for his expletives-laced outbursts and his disdain for human rights and the West while reaching out to China and Russia.

Activists regarded him as "a human rights calamity" not only for the widespread deaths under his so-called war on drugs but also for his brazen attacks on critical media, the dominant Catholic church and the opposition. An opposition senator and one of his fiercest critics, Leila de Lima, has been locked up in high-security detention for five years over drug charges she said was fabricated to muzzle her and threaten other critics.

His decision—just months after he rose to the presidency in 2016—to allow the burial of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the country's heroes cemetery significantly boosted efforts by the Marcoses to burnish the family name.

The dictator's namesake son won last month's presidential election by a landslide. Marcos Jr. succeeds Duterte today and will govern alongside Duterte's daughter, Sara, who won the vice presidency also by a huge margin.


Duterte

Duterte himself has remained popular based on independent surveys despite the drug campaign deaths and his foibles, which endeared him to many poor Filipinos. His aides have often cited his high popularity ratings to deal with critics and the opposition.

The state-run TV network has been running Duterte legacy documentaries, mostly highlighting his administration's infrastructure and pro-poor projects. In a thanksgiving rally in Manila over the weekend, his supporters waved Philippine flags and cheered him on as he relented to belt a song with an orchestra and popular singers backing him up.

In the dim squalor of Soriano's shanty, however, an air of indignation and mourning still permeates. A wall brims with cluttered photographs of Angelito, her slain son, along with portraits and a statue of the Virgin Mary and a small card that reads: "End Impunity!"

Soriano pleaded to the ICC to resume an investigation into the drug campaign deaths which was suspended in November upon the Philippine government's request. She said she was ready to testify before the international court.

"When my son was buried, I promised I'll give him justice," Soriano said.

The ICC has launched an investigation into the drug killings from Nov. 1, 2011, when Duterte was still mayor of southern Davao city, to March 16, 2019 as a possible crime against humanity.

Duterte won the presidency in mid-2016 on an audacious but failed promise to eradicate the menace of illegal drugs and corruption in three to six months.

The ICC, which is based in The Hague, is a court of last resort for crimes that countries are unwilling or unable to prosecute. Only one murder case against three policemen accused of gunning down a teenager they linked to illegal drugs has progressed into a conviction so far and Duterte's opponents have cited that to highlight the difficulty of prosecuting law enforcers and possible Duterte for extrajudicial killings.

A drug suspect, who was gunned down and left for dead by police officers but surprisingly survived the violence in Metro-Manila in 2016, said he still fears for his life and asked that his real name not be used by journalists for security but added he too would be willing to testify before the ICC if its investigation progresses to a trial.

Asked to comment on Duterte's legacy, he shook his head but expressed hope he and other victims would get justice and possible state reparation.

"I still have a phobia," he told AP, but added that with Duterte's exit "it has eased a little."

More than 6,250 mostly poor drug suspects have been killed in Duterte's crackdown based on a government count since he expanded the campaign nationwide after becoming president in 2016.

Human rights proponents have reported much higher death tolls. They added that under his two-decade crackdown against crimes in southern Davao city, where he served as mayor, vice mayor and a congressman starting in 1988, more than 1,000 had been killed.

However, Arturo Lascanas, a retired police officer who served under Duterte for many years in a unit fighting heinous crime in Davao, said as many as 10,000 suspects may have been killed in the vast port city on orders of Duterte and the former mayor's key aides.

Duterte has denied authorizing extrajudicial killings in Davao or elsewhere in the country but has long openly threatened drug suspects with death and ordered law enforcers to shoot suspects, who threaten them with harm.

"All of you who are into drugs, you sons of bitches, I will really kill you," Duterte told a huge crowd in a 2016 presidential campaign sortie in Manila's Tondo slum district. "I have no patience, I have no middle ground, either you kill me or I will kill you idiots."

World

Ukraine's president: Russia has become a terrorist state

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russia on Tuesday of becoming "a terrorist" state carrying out "daily terrorist acts" and urged Russia's expulsion from the United Nations.

In a virtual address to the U.N. Security Council, Zelenskyy urged the U.N. to establish an international tribunal to investigate "the actions of Russian occupiers on Ukrainian soil" and to hold the country accountable.

"We need to act urgently to do everything to make Russia stop the killing spree," Zelenskyy said, warning that otherwise Russia's "terrorist activity" will spread to other European countries and Asia, singling out the Baltic states, Poland, Moldova and Kazakhstan.

"What is punished at the level of specific criminals and criminal organizations must not go unpunished at the level of a state that has become a terrorist," he said. "Daily terrorist acts. No days off. They work as terrorists every day."

AP
German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, left, watches Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy shakes hands with French President Emmanuel Macron, second left, as Romanian President Klaus Iohannis, right, and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi look on before a meeting in Kyiv, Thursday, June 16, 2022.

In urging Russia's ouster from the 193-member United Nations, Zelenskyy cited Article 6 of the U.N. Charter which states that a member "which has persistently violated the principles contained in the present Charter may be expelled from the organization by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council."

Russia's expulsion, however, is virtually impossible. That's because as a permanent council member Russia would be able to use its veto to block any attempt to oust it.

IN LOVING MEMORY

†WILLIAM ALLEN SIZEMORE

SEPTEMBER 11, 1933 - JUNE 14, 2022

In his new life, he now joins his wife
†Trinidad "Mako" Sonoda Sizemore

The memories of our beloved "Pop" will forever live in the hearts of his children:
Margaret Sizemore & Mark Cook
William Sizemore Jr. & Dr. Liane Mizgala
Cyndi Sizemore & Carno Johnson
Sheryl Sizemore & Jude Hofschneider
Ann Sizemore
Allen Sizemore
Joseph Sizemore & Dong Rong Sizemore
Jacqueline Sizemore & Alfonso Masga
Douglas Brennan
Qiang Lao & Che Zhu
Cai Lao

He will also be missed by his 28 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, his siblings, his brothers and sisters in laws, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, & friends.

Daily mass is being offered at San Jose Church at 6 pm, except for Sundays and Wednesdays, where they are being offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 9:30 am and 6 pm respectively.

On Friday July 1, Pop will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 9 am for Responso Service and Holy Rosary followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 10 am.

Please join us in Prayers,
The Family

HE ONLY TAKES THE BEST

God saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be;
So he put his arms around you;
And whispered, "Come to me".
With tearful eyes we watched you,
And saw you pass away;
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay,
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.

Environment

Grant heightens interest in agriculture, beekeeping

A first-time grant for the University of Guam is helping to support and give hands-on training to individuals in Guam who are just starting out in farming or niche areas of agriculture, such as beekeeping.

Through its Western Pacific Tropical Research Center at the College of Natural & Applied Sciences, UOG competed for and received a grant in September 2020 from the Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program under the U.S. Department of Agriculture—a program with an approximately 20% application acceptance rate.

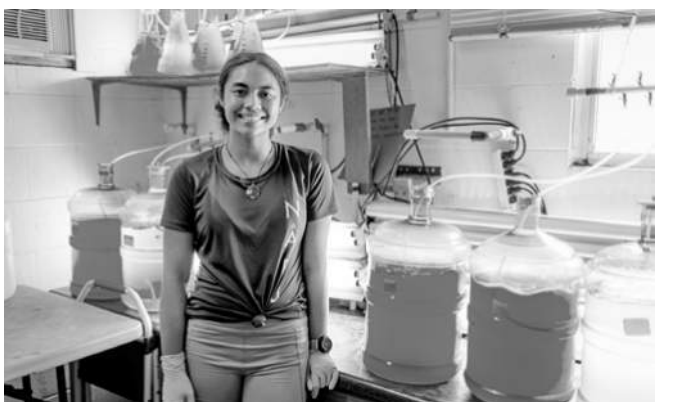
The three-year, $450,000 grant aligns with the university's land-grant mission of delivering practical knowledge to the community-at-large and, through various partnerships, has so far funded a variety of community agriculture workshops, several six-month internships, and supplies and technical assistance for beginning farmers.

"We've supported more than 200 participants to date and are seeing increasing interest from more farmers as well organizations wanting to partner to support the farming community on island," said Adrian Ares, interim associate dean for research at CNAS, who secured the grant through the Research Corporation of the University of Guam.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Beginner beekeeper Mario Martinez, left, and Guam Beekeepers Association president Chris Rosario check the health of Martinez's bee colony. Martinez is one of 20 new beekeepers on island under the USDA-funded Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development program at the University of Guam.

University of Guam extension associate Robert Bevacqua teaches a workshop on banana plant propagation in February as part of the Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program at the University of Guam. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM



Katherine Perez, a University of Guam agriculture major, gains first-time aquaculture experience as she harvests food for the shrimp that are grown at UOG's Guam Aquaculture & Training Center and sold locally for consumption. She is one of seven interns to be supported so far under UOG's Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development grant. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Guam Beekeeper Association president Chris Rosario leads a beehive assembly workshop in March as part of the Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program at the University of Guam.

Community workshops

Community workshops have been offered on breadfruit, mango, and banana cultivation, raising baby chicks, and beekeeping and beehive assembly as well as soil testing, composting, and plant propagation methods. Interest in the workshops has been strong, Ares said, with more than 200 individual participants.

The beekeeping workshops, in partnership with the Guam Beekeepers Association, have produced 20 beginner beekeepers, who are now managing their own hives with regular check-ins from the GBA and UOG.

Honey is just one product beekeepers can harvest and sell—others include creamed honey, mead, infused honey, and beeswax.

Hands-on farming experience

The grant has also allowed seven individuals so far to gain hands-on experience through six-month internships at Triton Farm, the Guam Aquaculture & Training Center, the Valley of the Latte, or Farm to Table Guam Corp.

The internships are intended for anyone of any age with an interest in farming and learning practical skills, and the program is hoping to open a second round of internships soon.

The grant has also funded supplies for beginner farmers, including compost, manure, seedlings, canopies and poles, as well as two greenhouses, one of which will be specifically used by farmers who are veterans.

A growing interest in niche farms

The USDA's Beginner Farmer & Rancher Development Program was developed in response to an increasing number of people across the nation entering agricultural production for the first time. Ares said the program is the only federal initiative at present assisting new farmers. The trend into agriculture in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands seems to mirror that in the U.S. mainland, Ares said, in particular with residents who have inherited land or want to follow in their ancestor's footsteps and work the land.

"They tend to be interested in niche markets, high-value products, specialty products, and they care about the environment," he said. "They have the enthusiasm and the commitment, but they need financial, legal, and technical assistance."

For more information on opportunities through the Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development program, contact program coordinator Rita Barcinas at barcinasr8861@triton.uog.edu to be added to the mailing list. ***(UOG)***

G-7 aims to create club of nations to boost climate action

BERLIN (AP)—Members of the Group of Seven major economies pledged Tuesday to create a new " climate club " for nations that want to take more ambitious action to tackle global warming, putting them on a possible collision course with China.

The idea, championed by G-7 summit host German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, will see countries that join the club agree on tougher measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Countries that are part of the club will try to ensure their national measures are transparent and comparable, avoiding the need for members to impose climate-related tariffs on each others' imports. The European Union in particular has touted such tariffs as a way to prevent companies which reduce emissions from being undercut by foreign rivals that don't have to abide by strict environmental rules.

Speaking at the end of the three-day summit, Scholz said the aim was to "ensure that protecting the climate is a competitive advantage, not a disadvantage."

The G-7 say that the new club will be "will be inclusive in nature and open" to countries that are committed to fully implementing the 2015 Paris climate accord, but the idea is likely to find little favor particularly with China, the world's biggest emitter. Beijing has made clear that it strongly opposes climate-related tariffs and has tried to rally support against the idea from other emerging and developing countries.

Scholz said details of the planned climate club would be finalized this year.

The G-7 also made clear their continued support for efforts to cap global warming at 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) this century compared to preindustrial times, outlining numerous measures they will take to curb their own emissions and help poorer nations do the same.

Environmental campaigners expressed relief that existing pledges to phase out coal use and boost the uptake of electric cars hadn't been rolled back, though the G-7 did soften their commitments on ending public support for fossil fuel investments.

Life & Style

Chris Pratt picks military veterans for 'The Terminal List'

NEW YORK (AP)—Chris Pratt portrays a Navy SEAL in his new Amazon series " The Terminal List, " and is surrounded on camera and behind-the-scenes by former members of the U.S. military.

In the 2013 movie "Zero Dark Thirty," Pratt played one of the Navy SEALs who helped kill Osama Bin Laden." For that role, he shadowed Jared Shaw, a real Navy SEAL, whom he now counts as one of his "very best" friends.

Pratt

"He was in my wedding," said Pratt. The two also lived together before he moved in with now-wife Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt.

Shaw introduced Pratt to the book "The Terminal List" by Jack Carr, a story about a Navy SEAL named Jack Reece, whose platoon is ambushed in a covert operation. When Reece returns home, he begins to question both his memories of what happened and the world around him.

Pratt loved the book so much that he optioned it with Antoine Fuqua directing the first episode and serving as a co-executive producer alongside Pratt and others. Shaw was added as an associate producer and also has a role in the show. The team hired real special ops members to appear in a major combat scene in the first episode that sets the series in motion. It also employed former members of the military behind-the-scenes in a variety of roles.

Pratt said he wanted "The Terminal List," debuting July 1, to have a "layer of authenticity" that many Hollywood productions featuring special ops don't have.

"Action films over time have turned Navy SEALs into superheroes. I think when actual SEALs watch that stuff, they're like, 'Nah, that's Hollywood (expletive.)'"

By enlisting former special ops as technical advisors, Pratt said they could say, 'Hey, guys, that's not what that should look like. You have to do it again.'" The goal was "to try to honor that community and make this for that community, So they'd watch us and go, 'Wow. That's actually very accurate.'"

Beyond realism, Pratt says it makes sense to enlist former military to work on Hollywood productions. "They wake up and look for work to get done," he said.

Woody Allen mulls end of career, talks with Alec Baldwin

Woody Allen told Alec Baldwin during a live interview Tuesday on Instagram that he is mulling ending his movie-making career, saying directing has lost its luster.

The two men—each facing significant controversies—steered clear of addressing either the abuse allegations against Allen or the shooting last year on Baldwin's movie set.

The public comment options were turned off, and the 45-minute interview attracted a modest audience of between 2,400-2,700. The two men chatted about Allen's writing, the use of profanity in films and the current state of Broadway. Allen lost his connection several times, with his screen freezing.

Actor Alec Baldwin attends the screening for "Framing John DeLorean" during the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival on April 30, 2019, in New York, left, and filmmaker Woody Allen attends a press conference for the film "Irrational Man," at the 68th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, on May 15, 2015. AP

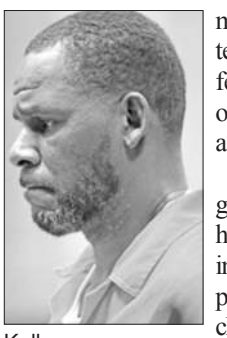
Allen, 87, said movie-making is not as exciting now that his films spend a few days in movie theaters and then directly go to streaming. "A lot of the thrill is gone," he said. "It's not as enjoyable as it was." Still, he plans to make his next movie later this year in Paris. "I'm going to make another one, and I'll see how it feels."

Baldwin, who has worked with Allen on a number of films, including "To Rome with Love," "Alice" and "Blue Jasmine," kept the mood light, complimenting Allen for his writing. and realizing that neither had contracted COVID-19.

Allen has continued to face backlash after his adopted daughter, Dylan Farrow, accused him of molesting her as a child. Allen has denied the allegations.

R&B hitmaker R. Kelly is due in court for sex abuse sentencing

NEW YORK (AP)—R& B star R. Kelly faces the possibility of a quarter century or more in prison when he is sentenced Wednesday in a federal sex trafficking case in New York.


Kelly

A jury found Kelly, 55, guilty of racketeering and other counts last year at a trial that was seen as a signature moment in the #MeToo movement.

Outrage over Kelly's sexual misconduct with young women and children was fueled in part by the widely watched docuseries "Surviving R. Kelly," which gave voice to accusers who wondered if their stories were previously ignored because they were Black women.

U.S. District Judge Ann Donnelly is set to impose the sentence at a federal court in Brooklyn after hearing statements from victims and possibly Kelly himself.

Prosecutors are seeking a minimum 25-year term, while the defense says a sentence of 10 years or less is all he deserves.

Kelly's lawyers argued in court papers he should get a break in part because he "experienced a traumatic childhood involving severe, prolonged childhood sexual abuse, poverty, and violence."

They added: "His victimization continued into adulthood where, because of his literacy deficiencies, the defendant has been repeatedly defrauded and financially abused, often by the people he paid to protect him."

The jury convicted the "I Believe I Can Fly" hitmaker after hearing about how he used his entourage of managers and aides to meet girls and keep them obedient, an operation prosecutors said amounted to a criminal enterprise.

Several accusers testified that Kelly subjected them to perverse and sadistic whims when they were underage.

Police: 2 arrested after jewel heist at Dutch art fair

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Smartly dressed robbers wielding what appeared to be weapons and a sledgehammer snatched jewelry in a brazen heist Tuesday at an international art fair in the southern Dutch city of Maastricht. Police quickly made two arrests and said they were hunting more suspects.

Video purporting to be of the robbery and posted on social media and on the website of Dutch broadcaster NOS showed one man, dressed in slacks, sneakers, a jacket and cap pounding at something out of picture with a sledgehammer as an alarm rang. Three other men, also neatly dressed, stood guard around him. At least two appeared to be brandishing guns.

All four ran off together. Photos from the scene that also were posted on social media showed holes smashed in glass display cabinets at the prestigious TEFAF art fair.

Police said nobody was injured in the robbery. They said the robbers had made off with jewelry, but did not elaborate on what they stole or the value.

Abusive husband manipulates wife, kids living in shelter

DEAR ABBY: I am the mother of two small children. I have separated from their verbally abusive, alcoholic father. I returned to my grandmother, who raised me, and tried to get a job. I couldn't find one quickly because we went into quarantine and my uncles made me move out.

I currently live in a women's shelter with my children, and I finally got a job. My problem is my husband still acts like we are getting back together, and he's embarrassed that we are living here. I want a divorce, but he won't talk about it, and threatens not to send money to support me and the children. He doesn't send much, but I have enough gas to get everywhere during the week.

He keeps telling me how much money he makes now and that he can get us a nice place where he is, or he can come stay a whole week with us when he's off. I don't want him to come stay with us. When I tell him this, he gets angry and hangs up, but then calls back the next day to say the same thing. I can't get him to understand that I don't want to be with him anymore, and I'm tired of his abuse. (The last time I lived with him, he "accidentally" knocked our son into the couch and walked out.) He won't admit he has a problem. Any advice?

DONE FOR GOOD

DEAR DONE: Your husband persists the way he has been because he's trying to wear you down to the point that you will reunite with him. Perhaps you should accept fewer of those phone calls. If there are social workers connected to the shelter you're staying in, consult them about your predicament.

Your husband cannot shirk paying child support. If he doesn't do it voluntarily, his wages can be garnished. While you're at it, reach out to the National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-799-7233) because they may have useful suggestions about how to rid yourself of your abusive, alcoholic husband.

DEAR ABBY: Our only son has moved 2,000 miles away and has no contact with his sisters or me. I know his street address and still have his email address and phone number. About 10 years ago, when I was separated from his father, we were both expressing our angst, and I more than likely negated his feelings in an email. I ran across it the other day, and now realize that it may have caused the rift.

Should I bring that up in an apology now, hoping he will accept my most sincere acknowledgment that I ignored his pain? If so, what do I say? I am heartbroken and cannot sleep well with this hanging over my head.

HEARTBROKEN MOM IN TEXAS

DEAR MOM: Write your son and tell him you are trying to understand what has caused the rift between you. Explain that you have been going over things in your mind and found the email from so long ago. Tell him that if this is what caused it, you sincerely apologize, but that you were both going through a difficult time when the email was written, that you love him and hope he will forgive you if it caused him pain.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

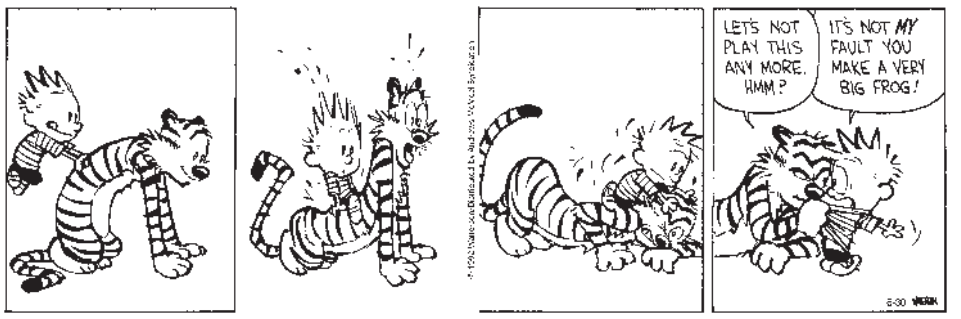
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



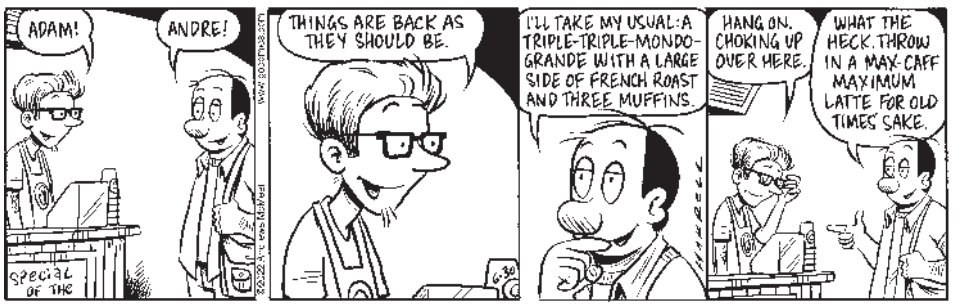
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

DING! DING! DING! DING!
ACCORDING TO THE CUTE-O-METER, THE ADORABLE FACTOR OF THIS COMIC STRIP JUST WENT UP 342 PERCENT!
JIM DAVIS 6-30

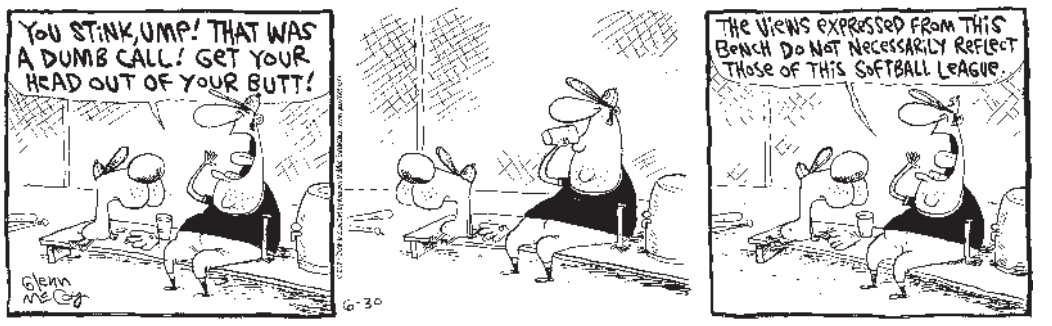
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM!
ANDRE!
THINGS ARE BACK AS THEY SHOULD BE.
I'LL TAKE MY USUAL: A TRIPLE-TRIPLE-MONDO-GRANDE WITH A LARGE SIDE OF FRENCH ROAST AND THREE MUFFINS.
HANG ON. CHOKING UP OVER HERE.
WHAT THE HECK. THROW IN A MAX-CAFF MAXIMUM LATTE FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YOU STINK, UMP! THAT WAS A DUMB CALL! GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOUR BUTT!
THE VIEWS EXPRESSED FROM THIS BENCH DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THIS SOFTBALL LEAGUE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Byron or Tennyson
5 Center
8 Lab sci.
12 Slightly open
13 Altar vow
14 Suffix for million
15 Zorro's garment
16 Inherited
17 USMC ranks
18 Tacky art
20 Sneaky laugh
22 Drunkard
23 "What's the —?"
24 Vacationing
27 Vaccinate
32 Avril follower
33 Cato's 502
34 By way of
35 Weapon-providing agreement
38 Bloke
39 Trio after R
40 Ecol. watchdog
42 Chevy trucks
45 Luggage carrier
49 Author Bagnold
50 Cattle call
52 Skater Lipinski
53 Diana of "The Avengers"
54 Naval letters
55 Harrow rival
56 Wan
57 Asian holiday
58 Take it easy

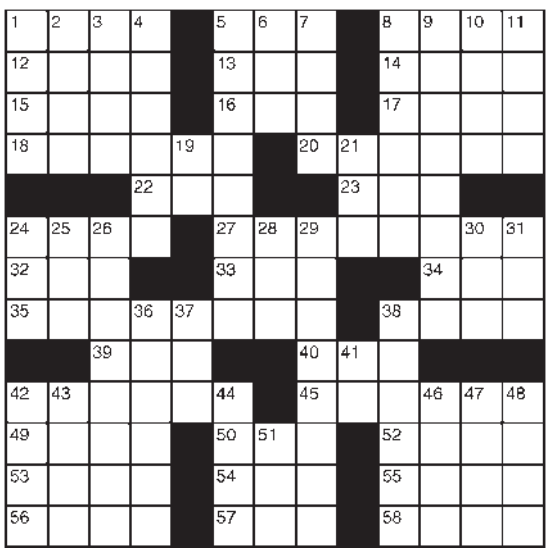
DOWN

1 Don't have
2 California town
3 Engrossed
4 Stylish
5 Flood cause
6 Japanese veggie
7 The pair
8 Redeem
9 Hand-slapping greeting
10 Art Deco master
11 Netting
19 Biz abbr.
21 College URL ender
24 Docs' bloc
25 Kids' card game
26 Sets lofty goals
28 Actress Farrow
29 Road marker
30 California wine, for short
31 Consume
36 Fuddy-duddy
37 Payable
38 Stocking band
41 Italian river
42 Prefix with byte
43 Black birds
44 Blue material?
46 London gallery
47 Cupid's alias
48 Harangue
51 Sugary suffix

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	L	G	A	■	B	E	T	■	G	L	T	S
B	C	M	B	■	A	I	F	■	A	F	R	O
I	C	W	R	F	A	M	S	■	T	M	A	N
F	S	S	F	S	■	■	T	R	O	O	P	S
■	■	■	S	T	A	R	■	I	N	N	■	■
G	A	L	S	■	R	E	M	O	■	B	F	F
U	R	I	■	P	O	S	I	T	■	A	L	I
T	I	M	■	T	W	O	S	■	C	R	A	G
■	■	A	D	A	■	D	O	R	A	■	■	■
O	N	B	A	S	E	■	■	A	R	N	I	E
K	I	E	V	■	■	I	L	Y	B	A	R	T
A	C	A	I	■	A	M	P	■	O	L	A	N
Y	E	N	S	■	N	O	S	■	N	A	S	A

Yesterday's answer 6-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fantasia, 38; Monica Potter, 51; Mike Tyson, 56; David Alan Grier, 66.

Happy Birthday: Take the path that makes you happy and gives you a chance to use your attributes in a new creative manner. A change may make you feel uncomfortable this year, but the benefits outweigh any aggravation or anxiety you harbor. Avoid situations that put you in an emotional conundrum by being upfront and clarifying your intentions and desires. Your numbers are 8, 14, 21, 23, 34, 37, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Start a home improvement project or tidy up your surroundings. Channel your energy into something concrete. Don't start something you can't finish or get into a heated discussion. Focus on helping others, being positive and applying your skills to help you flourish. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A change will help you see things differently. Be inventive, and you'll develop an idea that will help you stand out. Invest in yourself instead of giving your all to benefit someone who wouldn't do the same for you. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: Keep your thoughts private. Someone will misconstrue what you say or give you a hard time. A single-handed approach will provide you with the freedom to get things done without disruption. Strive for perfection, pay attention to detail and pursue something you love. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Make a change before someone beats you to it, and you'll find yourself in a much better place mentally and emotionally. Put the past behind you and start anew. Do things that benefit you instead of trying to please everyone else. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Consider what you can accomplish, then get moving. Trusting your intelligence and having an optimistic outlook will win favors and support. The information you receive will tell you what you should pursue. Make self-improvement and love your priorities. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Bring about change. If you wait, someone will take over and disappoint you. By being the one who oversees things, every detail will be taken care of to perfection. A change of heart will adjust the dynamics of a partnership.✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll be uncertain about what you want to do and what others expect of you. Control your emotions, and take the initiative to do the work yourself. There is no room for laziness if you want to live your dream. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Observation will pay off when dealing with your peers. Networking and bouncing ideas off someone you find intriguing will lead to an exciting proposal. Make sure you get what you want in writing before you sign up. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be open to suggestions and willing to put your energy into making things happen, but don't let anyone take advantage of your enthusiasm. Ensure that what you are eager to put in is matched by what you get in return. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Emotions will surface, and being open about your thoughts to those affected by your choices is necessary. A plan to change the way your household is run or set up needs some careful consideration for you and others. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Refuse to let what others do affect your plans. Stay focused on what's important to you, and expand your interests and plans to fit your daily routine. Personal improvements will give you the boost you need to perform outstandingly. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be careful with whom you share personal information. Stick close to home, and refuse to get into an emotional disagreement with someone looking for a fight. Set a budget if you plan to do something entertaining or start an improvement project at home. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are affectionate, possessive and generous. You are tolerant and reliable.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2		7		3		5	
5								8
		7	4		1	9		
1		2				7		4
3		4				6		5
		5	6		9	8		
4								3
	7		3		2		6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	9	8	2	3	4	1	7	5
2	5	7	9	1	6	8	3	4
3	1	4	7	8	5	2	6	9
1	4	6	3	7	8	5	9	2
9	8	5	6	2	1	7	4	3
7	2	3	4	5	9	6	8	1
5	6	2	8	9	3	4	1	7
4	3	1	5	6	7	9	2	8
8	7	9	1	4	2	3	5	6

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MONTEREY PENINSULA Solution: 7 letters

E	S	E	V	O	R	G	Y	K	C	O	R	C	B	S
G	N	D	V	I	S	T	A	S	M	P	Y	I	R	F
W	N	D	N	R	E	E	P	A	C	A	K	E	I	F
I	S	I	E	A	P	W	N	H	I	I	R	V	C	I
L	N	V	F	M	L	S	S	I	N	N	J	I	K	L
D	O	H	E	R	I	T	A	G	E	T	U	R	N	C
L	I	R	C	O	U	S	E	H	C	E	N	D	A	A
I	S	E	N	I	W	S	M	W	S	R	I	M	L	C
F	S	S	C	H	F	H	C	A	E	B	P	K	A	I
E	I	P	A	R	K	I	S	Y	E	S	E	A	R	R
T	M	L	R	S	A	N	C	T	U	A	R	Y	A	O
U	E	S	M	L	O	N	E	A	S	C	O	A	S	T
O	T	H	E	A	T	E	R	N	P	R	S	K	O	S
R	C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A	I	U	T	I
G	N	I	T	S	A	T	N	I	O	P	R	F	O	H

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Beach, Biking, Brick, California, Camps, Carmel, Cliffs, Coast, Drive, Endemism, Firsts, Grove, Heritage, Highway, Historic, Junipero, Kayak, Lara Soto, Lone, Lovers, Mansions, Marina, Missions, Pacific, Painter, Park, Peak, Pine, Point, Rocky, Route, Sanctuary, Scenic, Surfing, Tasting, Theater, Tour, Views, Vistas, Wetlands, Whale, Wildlife, Wines

Yesterday's Answer: Squirrel

The NEW **Treasury 48** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Tucker, Alvarez homer as Astros roll past Mets, 9-1

NEW YORK (AP)—Kyle Tucker had a three-run homer and a stolen base, Yordan Alvarez hit his 23rd home run and Framber Valdez pitched a gem to lift the Houston Astros over the New York Mets 9-1 Tuesday night.

Alvarez reached base five times, Yuli Gurriel also homered and Alex Bregman had three hits as Houston beat the Mets for the third time in a week.

Valdez (8-3) allowed six hits over eight scoreless innings, striking out four and inducing a bevy of groundball outs.

Carlos Carrasco (8-4) had a second straight rocky outing against Houston, giving up six runs in 4 1/3 innings on six hits and three walks.

AP

Houston Astros' Yuli Gurriel (10) celebrates with Astros' Kyle Tucker (30) after Gurriel hits a home run against New York Mets relief pitcher Chasen Shreve during the fifth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, June 28, 2022, in New York.

Braves 5, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Matt Olson homered twice, Travis d'Arnaud also connected and Atlanta beat Philadelphia.

Olson had his second two-homer game this season and the 13th of his career. He broke a 3-all tie in the eighth with his second homer, driving an 86 mph slider from Andrew Bellatti (1-3) out to right.

A.J. Minter, filling in for injured closer Kenley Jansen, pitched a perfect ninth for first save in his third chance. Collin McHugh (1-1) tossed 1 2/3 scoreless innings of relief.

Kyle Schwarber stayed red-hot in June with a home run for Philadelphia.

Yankees 2, Athletics 1

In New York, JP Sears stretched his big league scoreless streak to 12 2/3 innings and won his second spot start, pitching New York over Oakland for its 15th win in 19 games.

Sears (3-0) limited the A's to three hits in 5 2/3 innings, struck out one and walked one.

Jose Trevino backed him with an RBI single in the first off trade candidate Frankie Montas (3-8), and Marwin Gonzalez homered in the second.

Clay Holmes allowed an RBI single to Elvis Andrus but stranded two runners to get his 13th save in 14 chances.

Blue Jay 6, Red Sox 5

In Toronto, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a game-ending single in the ninth inning to complete Toronto's rally over Boston.

The Blue Jays trailed 5-4 when pinch-hitter Alejandro Kirk singled to begin the ninth against Tyler Danish (2-1). Hansel Robles gave up Bo Bichette's tying RBI single, and Guerrero followed with his base hit. The blown save was Robles' fifth.

Jordan Romano (2-2) worked the ninth as Toronto improved to 7-2 against the Red Sox.

Boston lost back-to-back games for the first time since May 30-31.

Guardians 3, Twins 2, game 1

In Cleveland, Amed Rosario's clutch two-run single in the eighth inning rallied Cleveland past Minnesota in the first game of a doubleheader, snapping the Guardians' five-game losing streak.

Down 2-1, the Guardians came back against reliever Emilio Pagán (1-3), who walked Myles Straw and rookie Steven Kwan before facing Rosario. Cleveland's shortstop then slapped a 3-2 pitch through the middle.

Carlos Correa's homer leading off the eighth against Sam Hentges (2-0) had given the Twins a 2-1 lead.

Emmanuel Clase worked the ninth for his 18th save in 20 tries.

Twins 6, Guardians 0, game 2

In Cleveland, Jorge Polanco drove in three runs in his first game back from the injured list, rookie Josh Winder pitched six stellar innings, and Minnesota split a doubleheader with Cleveland.

Polanco came off an IL stint for lower back tightness between games and cracked a two-run homer in the third inning off rookie Konnor Pilkington (1-1) as the Twins restored their lead in the AL Central to three games over the Guardians.

Byron Buxton hit his 20th homer and José Miranda also connected for the Twins.

Winder (3-2) was brought up as the club's 27th man for the doubleheader and excelled in just his fourth major league start and first since May 27. Tyler Duffy (one inning) and Jovani Moran (two) completed the combined five-hit shutout.

Rockies 7, Dodgers 4

In Denver, Randal Grichuk and Elias Diaz homered as Colorado roughed up Los Angeles' Clayton Kershaw.

The Rockies tagged Kershaw (5-2) for six runs and nine hits in four innings, his shortest outing in Colorado since first career start at Coors Field on July 22, 2008.

Charlie Blackmon had four hits and scored twice and Brandon Rodgers had two hits and two RBIs as the Rockies clinched their second series victory over the Dodgers this season.

Kyle Freeland (4-5) gave up six hits and three runs in six innings, with five strikeouts and three walks.

Brewers 5, Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Brandon Woodruff struck out 10 over five innings in his return from the injured list, Andrew McCutchen and Luis Urías homered during a four-run sixth, and Milwaukee beat Tampa Bay.

Woodruff (6-3) allowed one run and two hits.

Matt Wisler (2-2) replaced Tampa Bay starter Shane Baz with one on and two outs in the sixth, and it took eight pitches for the Brewers to turn a one-run deficit into to a 4-1 lead.

Josh Hader struck out the side in the ninth for his 23rd save in 24 chances.

Rangers 8, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Mo., Marcus Semien homered and drove in four runs, Jon Gray pitched seven effective innings and Texas beat Kansas City.

Corey Seager hit a two-run double as the Rangers handed the last-place Royals their fourth consecutive defeat.

Semien had three hits and scored three times. His three-run homer off starter Jonathan Heasley made it 4-0 in the third.

Gray (4-3) matched his longest outing of the season. He allowed one run and five hits with two walks and eight strikeouts.

Heasley (1-4) gave up seven runs and nine hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Cardinals 5, Marlins 3

In St. Louis, Dylan Carlson drove in a pair of runs and the St. Louis bullpen held Miami scoreless over four innings.

Cardinals starter Dakota Hudson (6-4) went five-plus innings, allowing three runs. He was lifted after issuing a leadoff walk to Jorge Soler in the sixth.

Junior Fernández pitched two innings, Giovanny Gallegos worked the eighth and Ryan Helsley struck out the side in the ninth for his sixth save in eight opportunities.

The Cardinals knocked Braxton Garrett (1-3) out of the game during a four-run fifth.

Nationals 3, Pirates 1

In Washington, Patrick Corbin matched a career high with 12 strikeouts, Yadiel Hernandez delivered a go-ahead two-run

double, and the Washington rallied in the eighth inning for the second straight game to beat Pittsburgh.

Corbin (4-10) allowed one run in eight innings for Washington, which has won three in a row and six of eight.

Pittsburgh has lost five in a row by a combined seven runs.

Hernandez came on to pinch-hit against former Washington prospect Wil Crowe (3-5) with two on and two outs in the eighth. Hernandez hit a shot over Diego Castillo in right, scoring both runners.

Tanner Rainey worked the ninth for his 11th save in 14 attempts.

Reds 5, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Luis Castillo struck out 11 over six shutout innings in his first win in a month, and Cincinnati beat Chicago.

Castillo (3-4) allowed five hits and walked three while throwing a career-high 123 pitches.

Jonathan India hit a three-run homer for Cincinnati.

Hunter Strickland got three outs for his fourth save.

Keegan Thompson (7-3) matched Castillo all the way to the sixth, when the last-place Reds grabbed a 2-0 lead on consecutive RBI doubles by Brandon Drury and Donovan Solano.

Giants 4, Tigers 3

In San Francisco, Mike Yastrzemski hit a two-run single and made a beautiful catch in the outfield on Miguel Cabrera's sharp liner as San Francisco held off Detroit.

Giants lefty Carlos Rodón (7-4) allowed one run and seven hits in six innings with four strikeouts and no walks. Rodón has permitted just two runs over his last 27 innings.

Yastrzemski's leaping catch on the run in right field in the eighth robbed Cabrera of a likely extra-base hit, helping San Francisco improve to 7-2 in interleague play.

Camilo Doval got four outs for his 12th save.

Evan Longoria hit a two-run single in the first off Tarik Skubal (5-6), who lost his fourth consecutive start.

Mariners 2, Orioles 0

In Seattle, Robbie Ray held Baltimore to one hit in seven innings and Jesse Winker delivered a two-run double in the eighth for Seattle.

Winker's clutch hit came with two outs against Felix Bautista, driving in J.P. Crawford and Julio Rodriguez.

Ryan Mountcastle singled in the fourth for the Orioles' lone hit.

Ray struck out eight and walked three. He's allowed two earned runs and 11 hits over his last four games spanning 27 innings.

Baltimore starter Dean Kremer tossed seven scoreless innings of four-hit ball.

Diego Castillo (5-1) pitched the eighth for the Mariners, and Paul Sewald worked the ninth for his seventh save.

Cionel Perez (4-1) took the loss.

White Sox 11, Angels 4

In Anaheim, Calif., Josh Harrison and Luis Robert each hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning, and Chicago pounded out 17 hits against Los Angeles.

José Abreu and Yoán Moncada had RBI doubles during a five-run seventh for the White Sox, who rallied from an early three-run deficit with multi-hit games from seven batters to win for only the second time in seven games.

Mike Trout and Shohei Ohtani hit back-to-back homers for the Angels. Ohtani went 3 for 3 with a walk, two doubles and two RBIs on the night before his next mound start.

Robert launched a 448-foot shot off Oliver Ortega (1-3). Robert, Tim Anderson and Abreu all had three hits, and Harrison drove in three runs.

Johnny Cueto (2-4) recovered from yielding three homers in a shaky third to pitch six innings of seven-hit ball.

Diamondbacks 7, Padres 6

In Phoenix, Josh Rojas scored the winning run in the ninth inning when shortstop C.J. Abrams couldn't handle a throw at second base, and Arizona rallied from a late six-run deficit to beat San Diego.

The Diamondbacks trailed 6-0 after six innings, but scored four in the seventh and tied it with two more in the eighth.

Mark Melancon (3-6) stranded a runner at third in the ninth inning after a leadoff walk and two wild pitches, setting the stage for a dramatic finish.

Taylor Rogers (0-4) got the first two outs in the bottom half, but gave up singles to Rojas and Ketel Marte. Christian Walker then hit a squibber to the right side and first baseman Eric Hosmer threw to second trying to get Marte. He slid hard into the bag, jarring the ball from Abrams' grasp, and Rojas dove headfirst into home plate to set off a wild celebration.

The Padres scored six runs off Zac Gallen in the fifth. Jorge Alfaro hit a three-run double and Nomar Mazara had a two-run homer.

Source: Westbrook exercises $47M option with Lakers

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

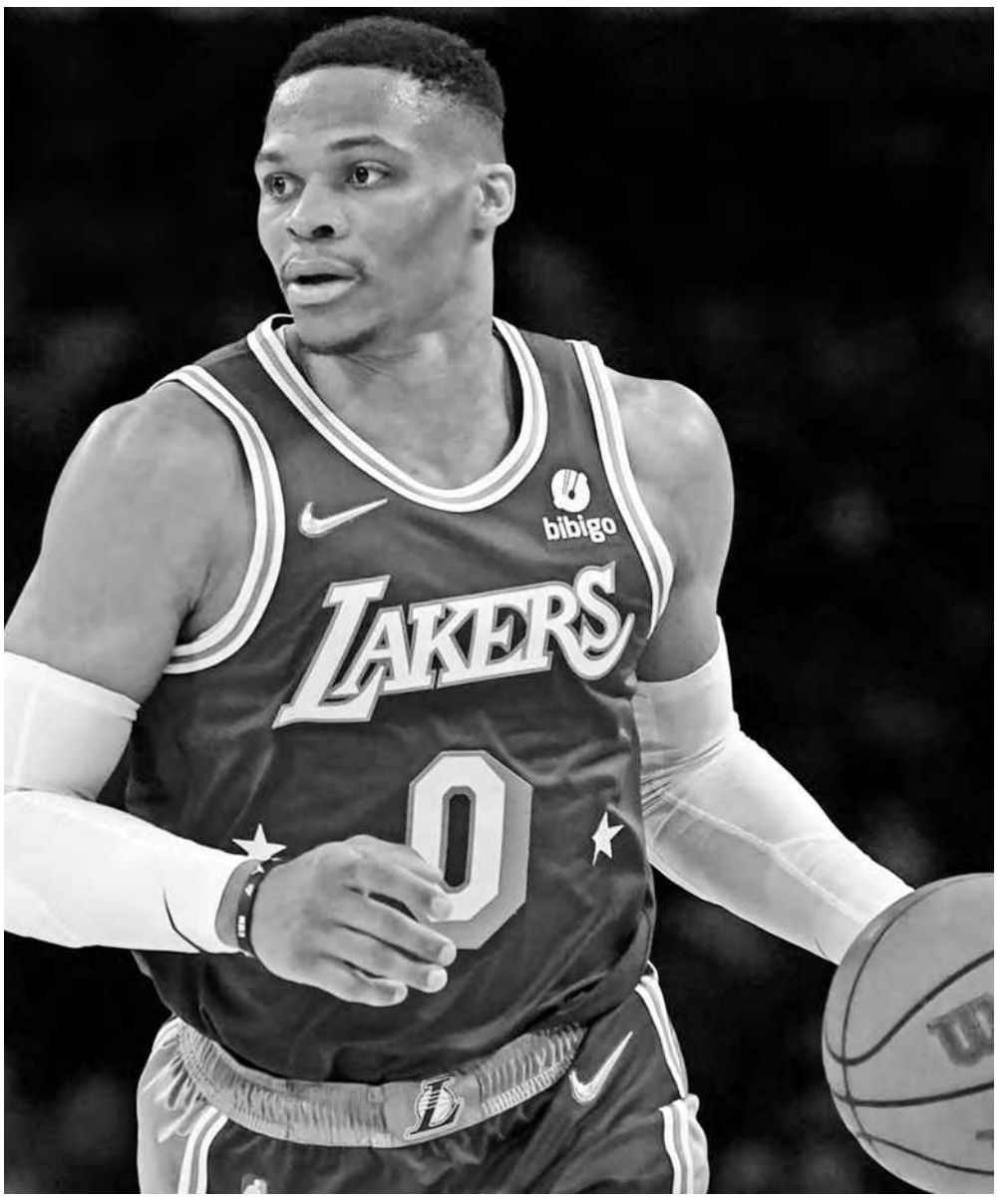
Los Angeles Lakers guard Russell Westbrook is exercising his option to play for $47.1 million next season, a person with direct knowledge of the decision said Tuesday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither Westbrook — a past NBA MVP and one of the league's top 75 all-time players — nor the Lakers revealed the decision publicly. ESPN first reported Westbrook's decision.

It certainly was not a surprise, considering Westbrook would not have commanded anywhere near $47.1 million for this coming season had he chosen to become a free agent. He'll turn 34 next season, his 15th in the NBA.

Westbrook had until Wednesday to make up his mind on the option, which will make this the fifth and final season of a $207 million contract he signed with the Oklahoma City Thunder. The nine-time All-Star has been well-traveled since — he was traded to Houston in 2019, traded to Washington in 2020 and was moved to the Lakers in 2021.

That created what was supposed to be a great trio: Westbrook alongside LeBron James and Anthony Davis.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Russell Westbrook (0) controls the ball during an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans in Los Angeles, Friday, April 1, 2022.

It didn't work out anywhere near as planned. The Lakers were dogged by injuries all season, missed the playoffs, fired coach Frank Vogel after the season and Westbrook has taken much of the blame for what happened.

He averaged 18.5 points, 7.4 rebounds and 7.1 assists in 78 games with the Lakers. Only four other players—two-time reigning NBA MVP Nikola Jokic of Denver, James Harden of Philadelphia, Luka Doncic of Dallas and Dejounte Murray of San Antonio — finished the season with higher averages than Westbrook had in those three stat categories.

But his scoring average was his lowest since 2009-10, and his 3-point percentage—29.8%—ranked 251st out of 278 NBA players who attempted at least 100 shots from beyond the arc this season.

Clifford: Hornets will continue to play fast and up-tempo pace

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Steve Clifford is back in familiar surroundings as head coach of the Charlotte Hornets — except he is in need of a new apartment.

Clifford was introduced as the Hornets head coach on Tuesday, a little more than four years after general manager Mitch Kupchak fired him from that same position.

Clifford wasn't Charlotte's first choice.

Golden State assistant Kenny Atkinson had accepted the job, but later backed out after the Warriors won the NBA title citing personal reasons. Clifford wasn't even among the first round of candidates to initially interview for the job; Kupchak quipped that was because he had taken over the lease on Clifford's downtown Charlotte apartment just days after firing him in 2018.

"I was afraid he might ask me for his apartment back," Kupchak joked.

The GM kept the apartment, but did give Clifford his old job back.

After he was let go, Clifford said he maintained a great relationship with Kupchak and owner Michael Jordan. The coach added while he didn't agree with the team's decision, he did understand it after the Hornets finished with back-to-back losing seasons during his tenure.

He went on to coach the Orlando Magic for three seasons, reaching the playoffs twice, and feels like he's better now than he was when he left.

"You want to evolve and get better at what you do," Clifford said. "I have coached a lot more games than I had when I was here the first time and worked with another team. You learn a lot from that."

Clifford inherits a Hornets team that was 43-39 last season and one he believes is more talented than any he's had in his eight seasons as an NBA coach, including the 2015-16 team that finished 48-34 before losing in seven games to the Miami Heat in the first round of the playoffs.

"One of the things that you look for is the potential for growth as you watch film and I think this is a group that can get better and better," Clifford said. "I look at this team as well put together, they fit well together and they can play a style that fits into what wins in this league right now."

To Clifford, that means an up-tempo pace with players who share the ball.

While Clifford's strength has been coaching defense — the Hornets finished in the top 12 in defense in his previous five seasons — he and this team could be a good fit.

Led by All-Star point guard LaMelo Ball, the Hornets want to push the ball up the court and play fast.

Clifford plans to let Ball and company continue to do just that.

"We are going to play offensively with a very similar emphasis that they have played with the last couple of years," Clifford said. "Offense starts with playing through the strengths of your best players and Ball is a great talent with a passion for the game and a flair for playing in the open court and we want to take advantage of that."

But Clifford also knows he was brought in to improve the Hornets' defense — which finished 22nd in the league last year.

"We knew defensively we needed to ramp it up a little bit," Kupchak said. "... But we talked (during the interview process) about playing the way our fans like to see us play — with great pace. That is fun and exciting. We see the game the same way and we saw the way this team should move forward in the same way."

The biggest decision facing the Hornets this offseason will be the ability to re-sign restricted free agent Miles Bridges, who has improved his productivity each year and led the team in scoring last season.

Kupchak isn't concerned.

"We love Miles," the GM said. "We're going to bring him back."

Source: Celtics' Hardy accepts offer to become Jazz coach

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Boston Celtics assistant Will Hardy has accepted an offer to become the coach of the Utah Jazz, a person with knowledge of the negotiations said Tuesday.

Hardy and the Jazz were in the process of finalizing contract language, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither side announced the deal publicly.

Hardy will become an NBA head coach for the first time. He will replace Quin Snyder, who decided to leave the Jazz earlier this month after eight seasons.

ESPN and The Athletic first reported the agreement between Hardy and the Jazz.

Hardy spent one season in Boston, helping the Celtics reach the NBA Finals. His previous 11 seasons were spent with the San Antonio Spurs, starting as a basketball operations intern, moving into the video room and eventually becoming an assistant under all-time wins leader and five-time NBA champion Gregg Popovich.

Hardy also assisted Popovich during USA Basketball's appearances at the 2019 Basketball World Cup and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Hardy left San Antonio for Boston to work for another former Spurs assistant, Ime Udoka, who took the Celtics to the finals in his first season as a head coach.

And given the success of the Popovich coaching tree in the NBA, it's no wonder the Jazz decided Hardy was the right hire.

Consider the roster of current NBA and WNBA coaches who have played for, worked for, coached under Popovich, or some combination thereof.

Golden State's Steve Kerr just won his fourth title as a coach — beating Udoka, Hardy and the Celtics in that series — and ninth championship overall. Milwaukee's Mike Budenholzer led the Bucks to the 2021 NBA title. Phoenix's Monty Williams guided the Suns to the NBA's best record this season and made the finals last year. Memphis' Taylor Jenkins led the Grizzlies to the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference this season. Philadelphia's Doc Rivers has won an NBA title, Sacramento's Mike Brown went to the NBA Finals in his second season as a head coach in Cleveland and Becky Hammon has the Las Vegas Aces off to the best start in the WNBA in her first season.

Clearly, those who learn from Popovich know how to win.

And Hardy has had the can't-miss coaching label on him for some time.

"It's always just been about being selfless," Hardy said while appearing at a Rising Coaches seminar last year. "Coach Pop says all the time: 'Get over yourself. It ain't about you.'"

Utah was the only team in the NBA with a coaching vacancy and became the fourth team to complete a hiring since the regular season ended. Sacramento hired Brown, the Los Angeles

Lakers hired Darvin Ham, Charlotte brought back Steve Clifford for a second stint and now the Jazz are turning their team over to the 34-year-old Hardy, who is younger than some players in the NBA.

Hardy also inherits a roster that's capable of winning.

The Jazz are one of three teams to make the playoffs in each of the last six seasons; Boston (with eight) and Milwaukee (six) are the others. Utah won 49 games this season and Snyder went 372-264 with the Jazz.

But he decided he needed a change, and Utah set out on its process. The Jazz talked to several assistants from all over the NBA before selecting Hardy, who will become only the fourth Utah coach in a span of 33 years — following Jerry Sloan, Tyrone Corbin and Snyder.

An Olympian to an advocate for athletes

The Olympics is the world stage for the best athletes in the nation. Matelita Buadromo, a young female swimmer from Fiji (who proudly represented her country in the 2012 Olympic Games in London, England and the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, Brazil), can attest to the countless hours and dedication it took to perform at that level. However, it was from these experiences that she was able to connect with a program called The Voices of Athletes and understand that the title of an "Olympian" or rather an "athlete" stems more than just the physicality of participating in sports.

The Voices of Athletes (VOA) Program is associated with the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC). According to the 26-year-old Buadromo, it is a program that allows athletes voices to be heard while educating the athlete on the 5 key messages: Play Safe, Stay Healthy, Play True, Go Green, and Be a Leader. They strive to empower athletes to understand that they can use their platform to influence and inspire everyone around them. Buadromo was assigned ONOC coordinator for VOA in Saipan for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022. She reflects on the great takeaway the program has in partnership with the local athletes of the host nations. According to Buadromo, once an event is confirmed the VOA program coordinates 6 to 12 months in advance with athletes who are not participating but rather volunteering for the event. Volunteers will be trained about the mission, the impact it would have on athletes, and share ideas on games/activities that they think would be useful in spreading awareness of the 5 key messages. Buadromo says this program really is, "for athletes, by athletes." The greatest takeaway from this partnership is that once the event is over and the VOA coordinators leave, the volunteers of the host nation can continue the program within their athletic venues, creating what Buadromo calls a "ripple effect". It truly has come full circle for this Fijian Olympian who is now sharing the platform with other athletes she hopes will pass on the impactful mission the Voices of Athletes program stands for.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

It was through the Voices of Athletes that Matelita Buadrom understood that the title of an "Olympian" or rather an "athlete" stems more than just the physicality of participating in sports.

Buadromo shares that her involvement with this program started on the other side of the table, as an athlete. The VOA Program, she shares, is extremely active in Fiji. Since ONOC is based out of Fiji, she shares the privilege she has in participating in a lot of VOA events that are housed there. It started off small, with her participating in one of the events then sharing it with her sport/club. It then took a step further, as she was invited to talk and share the 5 key messages at bigger sporting events. Finally, it has led her to coordinate the program in regional sporting events with other athletes from different parts of the nation that want to share their personal experiences from the program.

Buadromo hopes that athletes will at least take-away one of the five key messages that the VOA program stands for. She shares that during her experience as an Olympian, the main mission was to train then compete, but by participating in this program you not only emphasize your role as an athlete, but you become a better person overall. This program she states, "provides a holistic value to an athlete. An athlete is already a great individual because you go through so much hard work, but these key messages are so important because it impacts more than yourself, like the environment for Go Green and promoting Playing True by not taking performance enhancements, but at the same time you are learning about HIV/Aids which adds educational value to this individual who is already extraordinary because they are an athlete." The base takeaway of this program, says Buadromo, is just educating the overall athlete.

Asked why is it important for athletes to know about the mission of Voices Of Athletes, Buadromo stated "for me, it was amazing to learn and realize that there is more to being an athlete. I didn't realize that when you are an athlete you are automatically a role model." She shares that with the title, "athlete," you have even more of a platform and influence on how people can positively impact different areas of their lives. "Sports is something that brings people together," she said. This is the reason why it is so important for athletes to become educated on the 5 key messages within the Voices Of Athletes (VOA) program so they can strengthen their influence to not only their country but the entire nation. ***(PR)***

COLDEEN

From Page 20

sonal satisfaction is pure gold that cannot be stolen or lost or misplaced. You are your own personal gold standard."

Coldeen also made special mention of the CNMI National Baseball Team's historic 12-9 win against archrival Guam in the gold medal game last Friday with over 1,000 fans encircling the Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

"Josh Jones and NMI Baseball pulled off a gutsy, epic performance, one that will live famously forever thanks to the internet. Palacios field had never witnessed a performance like that. That win, coming on the last night after all the other (team) sports finished, was the star on top of the Pacific Mini Games 2022."

Saipan Tribune earlier broke down the 16 gold, 13 silver, and nine bronze medals won by the host team during the Game, which was held from June 16 to 25 on Saipan, Tinian (consolation matches for beach volleyball), and Rota (triathlon).

Weightlifting handed Team NMI 11 gold medals, with Ray Santos and David Barnhouse getting three apiece, Angel San Nicolas and Jason Limes gaining two each, and Joey Colisao adding one.

Tennis provided the home team three gold medals, with Colin Sinclair prevailing in the men's singles and teaming up with Robbie Schorr in the men's doubles finals win. Sinclair, Schorr, Bobby Cruz, and Colin Ramsey also topped the men's team event.

Golf's Zhimin Jin also made it to the gold medalists list for Team NMI with her victory in the women's individual event, while the NMI National Baseball Team capped the hosts' gold rush in the Mini Games with a 12-9 finals triumph over rival Guam last Friday.

Weightlifting also gave Team NMI the most silvers with 10 (three each from Leo Apelo and Antonette Labausa, two from Colisao, and one apiece from Leowel Cristobal and Angel San Nicolas). Athletics added two, thanks to Orrin Pharmin and Denise Myers, while beach volleyball's Logan Mister and Andrew Johnson chipped in one.

For the bronze medal tally, athletics' Dennis Borja and the women's 4x100m relay team (Casey Cruz, Zarinae Sapong, Maria Quitugua, Kina Rangamar) contributed one each. Golf's Franco Santos, JJ Atalig, Joshua Atalig, and Zhi Yun Li, triathlon's Isaiah Aleksenko, Leo Wania, Kathy Ruszala, and Heather Brook, tennis' Sinclair and Isabel Heras, and the va'a women's V12 team (Danica Calvo, Elaine Sablan, Elizabeth Tenorio, Erryne Dasalla, Gerlyn Libunao, Heather Calderwood, Jenisha Dubrall, Kaya Rasa, Rica Concepcion, Teresa Sablan, Victoria Aldan, Vinalynn Oronigo), and weightlifting's Riella Ann Ichiou and Jason Limes were the other bronze medalists.

Coldeen

Team NMI went on to win medals in all nine sports featured in the Mini Games, as badminton's Janelle Pangilinan and Jenine Savellano prevailed in their bronze medal match in the women's doubles against Tahiti's Hortensia Manzanal and Waianuhea Teheura, 21-12, 21-9.

HIT

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petition last June 16. Sinclair then added a men's singles gold, a men's doubles gold with Schorr, and a mixed doubles bronze with Isabel Herras in the penultimate day of the Games last June 24.

Aside from Herras, the national women's team is also made up of Asia Raulerson, Hye Jin Elliot, and Serin Chung. The team manager was Karen Ramsay.

In a social media post, Race praised the national team's perseverance in excelling during the Games.

"Well, we won three golds and a bronze and pulled off probably the best games in Pacific Games history! Not bad for a bunch of rookies!"

WATARU

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ta for the support. Thank you very much!"

He told *Saipan Tribune* that he and 40 other windsurfers joined the tournament for a total of four races in which he won fourth place, sixth place, and third place. In the last race, he finished first place and placed third overall.

"I was happy because it was my first race being a pro and it really gave me good [confidence] that I am able to do a good race against Japanese pros," said the clearly excited Tajima.

Tajima said he arrived at the venue four days prior to the race to prepare and get used to the wind condition.

During the race, he said that he "kept the good speed, so I focused to keep up with the start of the race and jive well around the mark."

"I really [made a] lot of mistakes on my gear choices and the start [was] bad but at last, I could control as I imagined. I am very glad that I could win one time from the Japanese champion who won a total of 25 times in the past races," added Tajima.

When asked if he thought he could have won first place in the competition, he said "I think I could have done better if I chose the right equipment and… [did] well in the start. I learned a lot from this tournament so I feel I can do better for the next races."

Tajima's next professional windsurfing competition is on July 16 and 17 at Tsukuihama Miura, Japan.

To the younger generation who wish to take up windsurfing, he said, "Enjoy windsurfing! If you wish to get strong, practice hard, and never give up!"

Last Dec. 11 and 12, he won the downwind slalom championship of the 18th All Japan Amateur Super Slalom tournament which made him eligible to compete as a professional windsurfer this year.

After debuting as a professional windsurfer, Tajima is still competing in the Olympic campaign to represent Japan in windsurfing for the 2024 Olympics.

Tajima is the son of Hiroshi and Hiroko Tajima of Saipan. He was taught windsurfing by his dad at the age of 12 at the Seawind Marine Sports in Micro Beach behind Hyatt Regency Saipan.

He relocated to Japan in March 2020 to hone and practice his skills as a windsurfer.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	55	20	.733	_
Toronto	42	32	.568	12½
Boston	42	33	.560	13
Tampa Bay	40	33	.548	14
Baltimore	35	41	.461	20½

Central Division

Minnesota	43	34	.558	_
Cleveland	37	34	.521	3
Chicago	35	38	.479	6
Detroit	28	45	.384	13
Kansas City	26	47	.356	15

West Division

Houston	46	27	.630	_
Texas	36	37	.493	10
Los Angeles	36	41	.468	12
Seattle	35	41	.461	12½
Oakland	25	51	.329	22½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	47	28	.627	_
Atlanta	43	32	.573	4
Philadelphia	39	36	.520	8
Miami	33	40	.452	13
Washington	29	48	.377	19

Central Division

Milwaukee	43	33	.566	_
St. Louis	43	34	.558	½
Pittsburgh	29	45	.392	13
Chicago	28	46	.378	14
Cincinnati	26	47	.356	15½

West Division

Los Angeles	45	28	.616	_
San Diego	45	31	.592	1½
San Francisco	40	33	.548	5
Arizona	34	41	.453	12
Colorado	33	42	.440	13

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tucker, Alvarez homer as Astros roll past Mets, 9-1

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Sports

An Olympian to an advocate for athletes

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Coldeen: All CNMI athletes winners

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The head of CNMI delegation to the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 said while not all Team NMI athletes medaled in the Games, he considers all of them winners.

Team NMI chef de mission Bob Coldeen said "Team NMI did more than rise to the occasion, it jumped over it" after finishing third to Games powerhouses Papua New Guinea and Tahiti in the medal standings.

"When we look at the scoreboard, it's like we are sharing the medals. Every one of them is for Team NMI. We had 124 athletes, all winners. I never saw a loser."

It can be recalled that the Sports Hall of Famer encouraged every member of Team NMI to soak up the experience of the next 10 days of the Games during a Team Presentation event last June 14 at the Saipan World Resort.

"You are also playing for your future past. In the future when you are ancient like me, this will be your past so you want it to be as memorable and wonderful as possible. Seize the moment and know this, not every winner gets a medal. Winning is doing the best you have ever done. Per-

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NMPMG2022/QUINN BREADY

The CNMI delegation takes part in the closing ceremony of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Volunteers 'hit' with Sinclair and company

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Members of the CNMI National Tennis Team met and rallied with volunteers of the nine-day tennis competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 last Saturday at American Memorial Park tennis courts.

National player and assistant coach Bobby Cruz said it's a small gesture to show how Team NMI really appreciated the hard work and sacrifices of the dozens of volunteers that turned out in the Games' tennis competition.

"Coach Jeff [Race] is always looking for ways to support and inspire the youth, many of whom volunteered as line officials and ball boys and girls. So the national team decided that they wanted to give back to the community by having them hit with us."

Cruz said almost everyone in the volunteer corps had ear-to-ear smiles after hitting with CNMI national players who they saw first hand battle with the region's best for Pacific Gamesxe tennis supremacy.

"The special treat was the chance to hit with Colin Sinclair, our world-ranked tennis professional. About 30 kids came out for a hit. It was a fun event, and the best part was seeing how pumped up the kids were to play tennis. Building community and doing things that keep the mind and body well is what it's all about. We may have inspired the next world class player from the CNMI," he said.

The CNMI National Tennis Team won a total of three gold medals and one bronze.

Sinclair, Robbie Schorr, Cruz, and Colin Ramsay won the men's team com-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI National Tennis Team members and coach Jeff Race pose with volunteers of the nine-day tennis competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 last Saturday at American Memorial Park tennis courts

Wataru wins 3rd place overall in pro debut

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan son Wataru Tajima is seen making his way through waters of the Tsukasa Japan Cup course last June 24.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Saipan-born and -raised Wataru Tajima, a 22-year-old Marianas High School alumnus, won third place overall in his professional windsurfing debut last June 24-26 at the Tsukasa Japan Cup 2022 in Amami Oshima, Kagoshima in Japan.

In Tajima's Facebook post after the tournament, he said he "won third place in the Foil Slalom Men's Class, Slalom was 10th place! We didn't have a very good run this time in the slalom, but it was nice for the first time in the foil race to finish the tournament! Thank you very much to all the sponsor companies, including the JSC Co., Ltd. who held the event and to all the staff who managed the event. And to everyone for all the messages of encouragement, I'm glad to have a good report! Great race thanks to RRD, 85CLUB, Starboardfoil, and Amino Bal-

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